

# THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

*Ballads and Rhymes*

BY  
*Charles E. Royal*

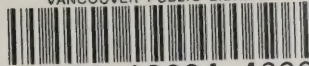


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THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH



# The Trail of a Sourdough

Rhymes and Ballads

By

Charles E. Royal

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## WHEN YOU'RE GAME

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### WHEN YOU'RE GAME

If you can smile when your heart is sad  
And make the world believe you're glad;  
If you can laugh when all goes wrong  
And make life just one grand sweet song;  
If you can hide each falling tear,  
Dispel some other's gloom with cheer,  
In success or failure be the same,  
Then you've the right to say *You're Game*.

If fate decrees that you shall part  
From those you love with all your heart;  
If, when you say the last "Good-bye,"  
You hide that tear within your eye,  
And wish them luck all down life's way,  
Forget the happy yesterday,  
And at that parting smile the same,  
Then you've the right to say *You're Game*.

If you can say that you've done right;  
If you've fought fair throughout the fight;  
If you take the bitter with the sweet,  
And don't complain if you get beat;  
If you don't brag when you have won,  
But praise your foe for what he's done;  
If sun or rain find you the same,  
Then you've the right to say *You're Game*.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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If, when at last you come to die,  
You look the whole world in the eye,  
And say, "I haven't one regret,  
I've done my best to pay each bet;  
I know that I've been on the square;  
I've treated everybody fair;  
I only leave an honest name,"  
The world will know that *You Were Game*.

---

## SOURDOUGH IKE

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### SOURDOUGH IKE

YES, Sourdough Ike's what they called him  
Way up North of old 53;  
Yet nobody knew and no one gave a damn  
What his "maiden name" used to be.  
Some said he once was a doctor  
Way back in the days of old;  
But now he massaged the guts of the earth  
To make her digest the gold.  
And he sure had the right kind of physic,  
For he always was makin' a strike,  
And the Chechacos, lookin' for pickin's,  
Just shadowed old Sourdough Ike.  
He'd "licker up" while the dust lasted—  
He warn't no hand drinkin' alone—  
And when his old buckskin was emptied,  
He'd hike for the great unknown.

He stood six feet two in his mucklucks,  
His hair was as red as his nose,  
When the "Hooch" was all out of his system  
He was "whale" from his head to his toes.  
He had trimmed up the whole crop of bullies  
From "Dan" to the terrible Greek,  
And when he shook hands with the half-breed  
It put him in bed for a week.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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But a real peaceful cuss was this red top,  
He never went lookin' for war;  
But when some one was spilin' for trouble,  
He supplied what they were lookin' for.

'Twas a night in the middle of winter,  
A night such as Northlanders know,  
When the mercury's flirtin' with 60,  
And a blue tint steals over the snow,  
When the stars seem too frozen to twinkle,  
When the air is just still as can be;  
But now we'll go on with the story—  
And this is between you and me—  
Old Sourdough Ike had been missin'  
Four months and a half from the fold,  
And the girls and the games were just itchin'  
To pilfer his fat poke of gold;  
The old roulette wheel commenced creakin'  
To welcome him back to the chips,  
And the bottles of "Hooch" were just smilin'  
To kiss his old weather beat lips.

The dance hall was crowded that evenin',  
The girls were made up for the fray,  
And all of the "cappers" were hustlin'  
To get some poor sucker to play.  
Old "Rag Hayes" was ticklin' the ivories,  
The wee hours were startin' to peep,  
And "Sandow," the Red Light's pet scrapper,  
Was slappin' some weaklin' to sleep;  
Blonde Lizzie was workin' some miner  
Who had just landed in from a strike:

---

## SOURDOUGH IKE

---

When the storm doors both busted wide open,  
And in walked old Sourdough Ike.

The whole gang rushed him with the "glad hand,"

A thinkin' that booze would flow free—  
For all other money was bogus

When Ike started out on a spree;  
But he stood there just transfixed and silent,

Like the sphinx in the story you read,  
Just takin' in all the surroundin's,

As tho' 'twas the first he had see'd.  
"Big Bertha" grabbed him by the shoulder  
And suggested a trip to the bar;

But Sourdough says: "I'm not drinkin',  
And here's what my reasons are:—

"When I left here last fall for the Keokuk  
I went clear to 'No Man's Land,'

And I found the lost mine that's been hidden  
Since 'Mad Bill' panned out his last sand.

With its treasures all shinin' before me,  
There were nuggets as big as a bowl;

Why I filled all these pokes in an hour;

Great God! there was nothin' but gold;  
And the cabin stood there all deserted,

Except for old 'Mad Bill's' bones;  
His skull peeked at me from a corner,

'Twas layin' twixt nuggets and stones;  
His ribs and the backbone were scattered,

And the door bein' open, I see'd  
That 'Mad Bill' had bequeathed his carcass  
For his huskies' last 'Thanksgivin' feed.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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"The wolves had chewed up his belongin's,  
But tied to the rafters I found  
A grub stake of beans and sow-belly,  
Too high for the wolves from the ground.  
And, Pard, I almost was starvin'—  
I'd been without food for two days—  
So I cooks up a sourdough banquet,  
And eats till my brain was a haze;  
And nailed on the wall right before me  
I saw, as I took my last sips,  
The last note that 'Mad Bill' had written  
Before he had cashed in his chips:

*"The food in this cabin is poisoned;  
I've endured the misery and cold,  
And no one shall live from my grub stake  
To tell of my strike of gold.  
It's hundreds of miles back to Dawson,  
So mush and you'll starve on the way,  
And my skull from this musty old cabin  
Will haunt every step, night and day.  
Or eat, if you can't resist hunger,  
Be a quitter and die by degrees;  
But leave "Mad Bill's" gold where you found it,  
Or my curses you'll hear on each breeze."*

"Now, I never was much of a quitter,  
And I've fought when the 'goin'' was bad;  
But when that poison just oozed through my system  
'Twas a 'yellow streak' feelin' I had.  
But I locked the door from the varmints,  
And made up my mind I'd sit tight,



---

## SOURDOUGH IKE

---

And, Pard, I'm right here to tell you  
That me and that dope had some fight.  
I lay on that bunk in the cabin  
Two months, and just flirted with death,  
With the skull smilin' up from the corner,  
And the wolves waitin' for my last breath.

"I could see the grave diggers all busy,  
The 'undertake' wearing a smile;  
I could just hear the devil give orders  
For four loads of coal on the pile.  
I lived forty years in an hour;  
I traced back each step that I took;  
Each page of my life was marked 'failure'—  
There warn't one good thing in the book.  
The wolf dogs were chanting a requiem  
For a life that was wasted and gone;  
When something just commenced to whisper  
There was still time for me to atone.

"'Twas the voice of my darling old mother,  
Like the sun shinin' down through a storm;  
And all of a sudden that cabin  
Seemed brighter and cozy and warm.  
Now I never knew much 'bout religion,  
But true as that poke's filled with gold,  
I heard mother's voice, soft like music:  
'Be saved and come into His fold.'

"So I just entered into a bargain,  
If the good Lord would pull me through,  
I'd fight all His battles from now on,  
And do all the good I could do.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Now He's done his part of the contract,  
And you bet your chips I'll do mine;  
And that's why you'll have to excuse me  
From the card games, the 'Hooch' and the wine."

"Aw, cut out the sob stuff," says Sandow,  
"And promenade up to the bar;  
You talk like a Salvation Army,  
And I've heard what a scrapper you are.  
Now you'll either take 'Hooch', or a 'lickin'."  
But that was as far as he got,  
For Ike let it go from the shoulder  
And dropped Sandow flat on the spot.  
There warn't a bit of commotion;  
They dragged Sandow back of the bar,  
And gave him his first bath of water,  
Till his brain could see somethin' but stars.  
They informed him of just what had happened,  
And he quietly sneaked out through the men,

And Ike says: "Now, as I was sayin'  
Before our rude friend butted in,  
I'm off with the dog team to-morrow,  
I'm headed for old Tennessee.  
There's a home that I'm going to make happy,  
Where a fond mother's waitin' for me.  
I'm goin' to start preachin' the Gospel,  
And when you're all buckin' the game,  
Each night in my prayers I'll be with you,  
And you bet that I'll mention your name.  
And maybe the Good Lord above us,  
Who's done all these wonders for me,

---

## SOURDOUGH IKE

---

Will just make your lives a lot better  
For those prayers back in old Tennessee."

Now that dance hall's deserted and empty,  
The tables are covered with dust,  
The old doors are standin' wide open,  
Their hinges are broken with rust.  
The players are long since departed,  
But I'll bet that where'er they may be,  
Their lives have been made somewhat better  
By a cuss down in old Tennessee.  
They'll always remember his fightin',  
They'll always remember his name,  
For a gamer cuss this side of Heaven  
Was never seen staking a claim.  
And if he's still preachin' the Gospel,  
He's doin' that same mighty well;  
For he'll just kick Hell out of the Devil,  
Or else kick "His Nobs" out of Hell.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

### THE PRICE OF GOLD

WHEN the silent night,  
Bathed in sun-kissed light,  
With its endless miles of snowy white,  
Saps the life from your veins, with its frosty bite,—  
Then you'll know the Northland's might.

Though you've been told,  
A thousandfold,  
You grit your teeth and bear the cold,  
Not realising you are mad for gold,—  
Until your youth is sold.

But day after day,  
You plod away,  
And that invisible boss just seems to say:  
"A bit further on and the dirt will pay."—  
And that's what makes you stay.

And that phantom witch,  
You see in the ditch,  
Says: "One in a thousand strikes it rich."—  
That quickens your pulse and the dirt you pitch,  
Just gives you the "miser's itch."

---

## THE PRICE OF GOLD

---

For the midnight sun,

Fools everyone,

It makes you believe your work is fun ;

But it mocks you when your work is *done* ;—

For you find your race is run.

You're bent and old,

From the Northland's cold,

You've suffered the pangs of hell, untold ;

And too late, you learn, when you find the gold,—

It was bought with the life you sold.



---

# THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

## THE OLD TRAIL

THERE'S an old worn out trail,  
Over rim, rock and vale,  
Half forgotten and long out of date.  
But still it's of worth,  
'Tis "The Brand" on this earth  
Of the Mushers of '98.

Tho, left to decay,  
It still points the way  
To the land of golden dreams.  
If you pause by the way  
It still seems to say,  
"Mush on, there is gold in the streams."

Though grass overgrown,  
Its bridges are gone,  
And boulders form many a gate.  
It still points the way  
As it did "yesterday"  
For the Mushers of '98.

And each "sourdough"  
In his dream oft will go  
O'er the trail as he did of old.  
He fixes his pack,  
On his weary bent back  
To answer the "call of the gold."

---

## THE OLD TRAIL

---

He joins the stampede  
With the same old-time greed.  
He shares his grub-stake with his mate.  
With the same longing hope,  
He goes over the slope  
Of the trail of '98.

The same old-time song  
He goes humming along.  
He reaches Lake Bennett at last;  
He again builds the boat  
And commences to float;  
The same dear old scenes are passed.

He feels the same spray  
On his face, as the day  
When first "White Horse Rapids" were passed.  
Le Barge soon glides by,  
Five Fingers draws nigh,  
The gold fields are reached at last.

He once more stakes his claim,  
Builds his cabin the same,  
And thinks of his loved ones who wait.  
But his dream is soon through;  
He finds he's changed, too,  
Like the old trail of '98.

And this same "sourdough"  
Is "The Man With the Hoe."  
Though life's humblest station was his,  
When he has crossed life's divide,

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

We will all say with pride:

"He made this Great North what it is.

"And this old trail alone

Was his sole stepping stone,

So why let it die with the past?

Let's rebuild every part;

Let it live in each heart

As long as the 'Great North' shall last.

"Like a great monument,

Let its mem'ry give vent

To the heroes who mused to their fate,

Who 'Answered the Call,'

And gave up 'life's all,'

On the old trail of '98.

"It was dear to their hearts

And it well played its part.

So let's join to save it from fate;

Like a banner unfurled

Let it still tell the world

Of the '*Mushers*' of '98."

---

## THE YUKON'S ANSWER

---

### THE YUKON'S ANSWER

THE Mighty Yukon River was practically unexplored when our present geographies were printed, consequently few people have the remotest idea of what a tremendous body of water it is. The deafening commotion of the ice breaking up in the spring, which is caused by the remarkable current of the river, is probably unequalled.

OLD Father Time, so the story goes,  
Was on his inspection tour,  
Righting the wrongs that nature did,  
And trying to find a cure.

He paused on the banks of the great Yukon  
And watched the ice break up,  
Eating the banks and gulping the trees  
In its seething, greedy sup.

And he said to the mighty Yukon:  
"Why don't you flow peacefully,  
Why do you keep on changing your course  
As you wend your way to the sea?"

Why do you build an island to-day,  
And sweep it away to-morrow?  
Why do you charge through the grassy flats  
Leaving behind you but sorrow?"

The old Yukon shook its mighty sides  
And heaved a mighty sigh;

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

It shook the ice with a maddening whirl,  
And made this bold reply:

“For a million years you’ve sent your curse  
In the form of snow and ice,  
I’ve froze and endured your hardships  
But lived, at your awful price.

Yes, lived, and forced my way to the sea,  
At sixty-five below;  
I’ve fought you for eight long months every year,  
When you blocked me with ice and snow.

In summer you’ve lured me on with your sun,  
You’ve strewn flowers along my way;  
Then you’ve snatched them away with a miser’s hand  
To let your ice hold sway.

For eight long months you’ve denied me light,  
You’ve let me feel my way.  
I’ve buried myself as I sought the sea  
In an icy covered bay.

And you call yourself the healer of time;  
You don’t know what that word means;  
You lure men on with your phantom gold,  
And swallow them up with your scenes.

Each year I carry these maddening hordes,  
Rushing on in their wild stampede.  
But I’ve always noticed but few come back  
To tell of your lust and greed.

---

## THE YUKON'S ANSWER

---

You want to know what becomes of the rest  
Who were lured by your bait of gold?  
They struggle and toil and starve and die,  
While you taunt them with misery and cold.

You cover the earth with your seal of ice,  
So the grass cannot protrude,  
And the moose and the caribou starve and die,  
As they search o'er your plains for food.

And you wonder I shake this helmet of ice,  
Why my passions I try to release,  
Just perfect your own faults, old Father Time,  
And the whole world will be at peace."

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### DEAD EYE DICK

"THE Bucket of Blood" was run by Bud,  
As a gentleman's resort;  
But the standard at best, was low in the West,  
And most of 'em measured short.  
The bar was crude, and made from wood  
That was whipsawed miles away;  
And the glass in back had many a crack  
That was caused by some shootin' fray.  
The bullet holes in the ceiling and walls  
Gave many a silent hint,  
Of nervy galoots, who died in their boots  
To prove they were "fightin' gents."  
That old bar room, since the days of the boom  
Was the pride of these bad gun men;  
But the census man only counted 'em once,  
For nine out of ten "cashed in";  
But a few of the gang, too tough to hang  
Still frequented this resort,  
And a game of draw, with some simp to "see-saw"  
Was king of their indoor sport.

'Twas in the Fall, when this little brawl  
Was staged at this booze bazaar;  
And I'm willing to bet that you'd never forget,  
If you'd been present that night at the bar.  
They were hungry for loot, when a tenderfoot  
Just happened into the place,

---

## DEAD EYE DICK

---

And they sized him up for an Eastern Pup  
By the cut of his classic face.  
But to give him his dues, he ordered real booze  
In a patronising way;  
And pulled out a roll like a barber pole  
To show 'em that he could pay.  
Everyone of them mooched his fill of his hooch,  
For they thought him as green as a quince;  
But he stood all their gaff, and they all had their laugh  
At the Tenderfoot's expense.  
Says Baldy McGee: "Stranger, listen to me,  
If Dead Eye Dick sees you,  
He'd scare you to death with a whiff of his breath,  
He'd shoot off every toe in your shoe.  
You've got too much wealth for the good of your health  
And it's strictly against the law,  
Your brain we'll expand, you can pay by the hand  
In a little game of draw."  
But he had 'em all sized and they never surmised  
The thoughts that paraded his brain,  
As he took out his "Jack," and says: "Bring on your pack  
And teach me your little game."

So the bunch hovered round, and the sucker they'd found  
Just seemed to have money galore;  
And he smoothed back his hair, and picked out a chair  
With a good view commanding the door.  
In the cracked looking glass, you could see every pass  
And so you will get what I mean;  
Just concentrate on what I state  
So you can visualise the scene.



---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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First:

"Howling Hank" the human "Tank"

Who sat in this game of draw,

Was known to all as the crookedest man

That a poker game ever saw.

He carried a gun, so every one would respect each bet he made,

And he got away with many a play,

When he used a club for a spade.

In the chair to his right, sat Bad Jim White,

And across sat Shorty Bray.

While on his left was this "Tenderfoot"

The sucker they'd roped to play.

While, looking on from behind the bar,

Was notorious "Three Finger Jack."

When Shorty winks and says: "Give us the drinks,"

Then Bad Jim stacked the pack.

You could read in the *dark* how the deck was marked;

'Twas as crude as a shepherd's job,

But the greed for the gold, made the gang so bold

They were almost primed to rob.

They dealt from the bottom as well as the top,

But the "Tenderfoot" just grinned;

And if he was wise, he sure was a prize

As a boob at getting skinned.

Hand after hand he'd tap each man,

And every time he lost,

He'd say again, with that half wise grin:

"How much does the last lesson cost?"

But Bad Jim White was in moods that night,

And he growled: "This is getting my goat,

Let's make a jack pot for all he has got,"

(And he pulled up the sleeves of his coat.)

---

## DEAD EYE DICK

---

But the stranger smiled and said: "Trot out your piles,  
And we'll change the game to stud.  
For it happens my deal, and the way that I feel  
Your names will soon be mud."  
Now this is a fact, he manoeuvred the pack  
Too quick for the eye to see.  
As he dealt the hole card, they all breathed hard  
Wondering what the next one would be.  
When he dealt the third round, there was hardly a sound,  
And strictly between you and me,  
He was after a straight, and the joker to mate  
He had palmed just as slick as could be.  
As the last card fell, they all heard a yell,  
And the door bursted out of its case;  
And three hold up guys, with masks on their eyes  
Levelled all of their "gats" on the place.  
They gave the command: "Boys, throw up your hands!"  
And as meek as a flock of geese,  
They followed McGee in a mad race to see  
Who could first reach the ceiling place!

But the Tenderfoot just started to shoot;  
He was game down to the knees;  
His aim was sure and they dropped to the floor  
Each time his pistol sneezed.  
He shot out the light with the gun in his right,  
With his left he plugged McGee;  
And in the dark he hit his mark  
With fiendish accuracy.  
He yelled:  
"All hands on the bar," then he lit a cigar  
Just as cool as an army mule,  
And by each puff you could tell his bluff

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Was not made by a weak-kneed fool:  
"This hold-up to-night will be pulled off right  
But not by a piker gink,  
Who yells like a boy when he's tasted the joy  
Of a five-cent near-beer drink."  
Then he ordered the lights and the gruesome sights  
Caused the "Tenderfoot" to roar,  
The three hold-up guys with masks on their eyes  
Were dead as a nail on the floor.  
And Baldy McGee, like he'd been on a spree,  
Was hanging on to a chair.  
For that shot was a prize right between both his eyes,  
And it never touched a hair.  
Said the Tenderfoot: "Well, he died in his boots,  
But I think that shot scared him to death."  
Then he took every sou and bade them adieu,  
And the whole gang held their breath  
As he said: "I forgot, that last jack pot  
Is scattered to hell and back,  
I'll leave it as a prize for you Sunday School guys  
And the Custodian's "Three Finger Jack";  
And I'll pay for the drinks, so all of you ginks  
Will enjoy this little trick,  
And if you give a toast, the name of your host  
Is—Yours truly, "Dead Eye Dick!"

---

## THE WOOD CHOPPER

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### THE WOOD-CHOPPER

THE character of the "Woodchopper" is typical of many college bred men who went into Alaska with the gold stampede and, after a few years of failure, settled down on the "Yukon" with an Old Squaw and a "fish wheel" to eke out an existence. Bye and bye a "papoose" comes, and, too late, they find Civilization and the outside world have closed their doors against them.

A wood-chopper sat on the Yukon flat  
Watching the dog salmon run;  
The old fish-wheel kept up its squeal  
While looping the loop in the sun.

A husky squaw that the chopper called "Maw,"  
With a malamute dog by her side,  
Had been whiling away the entire day,  
Making "mocks" from a caribou hide.

The mosquito hordes had been chewing the boards,  
In preference to blood from the squaw,  
When a steamboat's toot caused the malamute  
To strike up an "Ellen Beach Yaw."

But the wood-chopper sat right where he was "at"  
And stared at the old fish-wheel;  
His mind was away to the yesterday,  
And he heard not the whistle squeal.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

For seventeen years filled with sorrow and fears,  
He had dreamed of a girl outside.  
Both early and late he had struggled with fate,  
Till the manhood within him had died.

He had cursed the day that took him away,  
The day that he said good-bye,  
When the lure of the gold pregnated his soul  
With a resolve to get rich or die.

He traced back each year with a silent tear,  
Each winter of misery and cold,  
To when he mushed on, to the great Yukon,  
And then—well, we'll leave that untold.

From the steamboat's scow came the "sounding" pow  
wow,  
"Half six," "no bottom," "all right."  
But never a word had the wood-chopper heard  
As he stared in the sun-kissed night,

And the fish-wheel groaned, the old squaw croaned,  
And the malamute joined in.  
But the man, like the "Jinx," that they call the Sphinx,  
Sat and dreamed of what might have been,

When out of the air like a forgotten prayer,  
Came a woman's voice soft and sweet,  
And every note told of sorrow and hope,  
The wood-chopper jumped to his feet.

---

## THE WOOD CHOPPER

---

As silent as death he held his breath,  
To drink in each tone and word,  
And the old faithful squaw, took one look and "saw,"  
And sneaked to the tent unheard.

How often he had heard that song, every word,  
And the voice, "Ah! it must be the same."  
That last fond good-bye, he recalled with a sigh,  
And gently he breathed her name.

Then the cunning old squaw sent the papoose to his "Pa,"  
And the chopper awoke from his dream!  
And the old fish-wheel groaned, the malamute moaned  
And the boat passed from view down the stream,

And the woman on board little dreamed that her lord,  
The man she came north to find,  
For a fish-wheel that groaned and an old squaw that  
croaned  
Had left her and the world behind.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

### ALASKA—LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Did you ever stand in the heart of a land  
Where nature reigns supreme,  
Where the icy tints and the rainbow glints  
Blend in one color scheme,

Where the peaks are so high  
That they fade in the sky,  
Where the crack of the cold seems to sob,  
Where the silence is so intense, you feel  
The pulse of nature throb?

You're held in a spell, and you really can't tell  
Why you stare at the valley below,  
Why each craggy place resembles a face  
Bedecked in a mantle of snow.

But you stand there alone  
Like a king on his throne,  
The monarch of all you survey,  
Reviewing the flights of the Northern lights  
As they change the night to day.

The bigness, the greatness of nature's plan  
Somehow, seems to appal;  
The only word that describes it is,  
"*Alaska*," and that tells it all.

---

## LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

---

Where the rivers are brimful of fishes,  
Where the mountains are teeming with game,  
Where everything is just as it was  
Before the white man came.

Where you only meet "just grown up children,"  
Where religion's the golden rule,  
Where hearts are made big by the deeds they do,  
Broadened by nature's school,

Where the people are just one big family,  
Where "Friendship's the mother of all,"  
God bless you, I love you, Alaska,  
And I always will long for your call.



---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "THE GOOD AND THE BAD"

IN the old stampede days  
When the trail was a-blaze  
With men from all over the earth,  
When the great Northland's wealth,  
Taxed your muscle and health  
To the limit of all it was worth.

They would build up a town,  
'Ere the sun could sink down,  
To rise on another day  
When *another* big strike  
Would cause them to hike  
And like magic move it away.

When fortunes were made  
With the pick axe and spade  
By men who had grit to burn,  
Who looked fate in the face  
And smiled with the grace  
Of the martyr who longed for his turn.

Where the old Klondyke flows  
To the Yukon that's froze  
For eight weary months of the year,  
They made a big strike  
And for richness the like  
Has never been equalled:—not near.

---

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

---

That valley, I'm told,  
Was just studded with gold,  
And each man who staked out a claim  
It mattered not where,  
The real stuff was there,  
And they all struck it rich just the same.

When the news reached outside,  
A real human tide  
Flowed down with the mighty Yukon;  
They paused in their tramp,  
And built up a camp,  
And Dawson's the name they nailed on.

There were all kinds of creeds,  
Religions and breeds,  
Red, yellow, black, white and some mixed,  
So you see mighty clear  
That for real atmosphere  
Old Dawson was pretty well fixed

There were gambling dives  
Where the gamesters all thrived  
With all kinds of games in sight,  
Where they weighed up the dust,  
When a sucker went bust,  
For fortunes changed hands every night.

And Dawson soon had,  
Good women and bad,  
Some good as the angels above.  
While some were as bad,  
As hell ever had,  
They came North to coin their "love."

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Some were runaway wives  
Who had fled for their lives,  
(But had taken an escort along)  
Just to make them real fond  
Of the green fields beyond,  
Where "King Conscience" can't do a wrong.

And the bad and the good,  
Got together and would  
Forget the conventions of life.  
And to use just plain facts,  
Brazen harlots and maques  
Would hobnob with husband and wife.

Real College bred men,  
And others who'd been,  
The scions of culture and wealth  
Used weird social flaws.  
For the "North" knew no laws,  
They were not there for good of their health.

The wonderful tales,  
That are told of the trails,  
Would fill many pages of lore.  
But I'm right here to state,  
That the one I'll relate,  
Can go them one better and more.

'Twas in the "Northern Dancehall"  
This tale I'll recall,  
And the time was a gay New Year's night,  
The whole town was there,  
Just to bury dull care,  
And it sure was a wonderful sight.

---

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

---

"The Northern" was dressed,  
In her holiday best,  
'Twas a credit to any "outside"  
A chechaco, I'm told  
Said the night was so cold  
That the mercury had frozen and died.

But inside it was hot  
And the dancers forgot  
That the Klondyke had winter at all,  
And some of the clothes  
Would lead you to suppose  
You were at a Hawaiian Ball.

"Diamond Tooth Lil"  
Was dressed fit to kill,  
Or undressed, to be quite exact.  
For the gown that she wore  
Was two ribbons (no more)  
Sewed on to a skirt:—that's a fact.

And the rest of the dames  
Couldn't lay any claims  
To much more than Eve used to wear.  
For their waists were as low  
As the mercury could go.  
And believe me, up North it's "some bear."

And now I'll begin,  
On the dress of the men,  
Some were decked out in clawhammer suits,  
While some looked like freaks,  
In their duds from the creeks,  
Some wore muckluks, some pumps, and some boots.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

The dancers all danced  
Like a gathering entranced,  
And laughter and joy filled the room,  
Till in the midst of the fun,  
The crack of a gun  
In a distance pronounced someone's doom.

Then into that dive,  
More dead than alive  
Came a stranger that nobody knew.  
And the chatter all hushed  
As he quietly mushed  
To the bar for a whisky or two.

He resembled the man  
Who had searched for the land  
Where lost careers had died,  
Who had given his best  
'Til all he had left  
Was an empty heart in his hide.

Who had fought all his fights  
In the silence of nights  
Until he had bled his soul  
Of everything  
That Mother Earth  
Had put in the human mould.

He didn't come  
Like some of the scum,  
With a greed for the phantom gold;  
'Twas just to forget  
A life of regret  
And a woman . . . the tale of old.

---

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

---

He searched the place  
For a friendly face,  
But not even one did he find;  
Then he first knew the truth  
He had left his youth  
And the world that he knew, behind.

And the tear in his eye  
Kept pace with the sigh  
That he heaved for the long ago,  
As he fought back despair  
With an indifferent air  
So the rest of the world wouldn't know.

With a leg weary air,  
He dropped into a chair  
And stared like a man in a daze,  
Never batting an eye  
As the couples danced by,  
Just glaring with one aimless gaze.

Then the dancing went on  
Until midnight had gone  
And the prize waltz was called from the stage,  
And for those unaware  
It's a gala affair  
That the Klondykers call "all the rage."

The prize was a poke  
Of gold dust that would choke  
The whale that gave Jonah joy rides;  
And the gamblers all bet  
On their favorite pet;  
There was money galore on all sides.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And some real classy feet  
Filled the floor to compete  
For the Northlands most coveted prize;  
And the good and the bad  
Realized that each had  
A chance for a pleasant surprise.

The judges in doubt  
Kept weeding them out,  
Till at last when the choice dwindled down  
To one of the pets  
Of society's set  
And an underworld girl of the town,

The excitement arose until at the close  
The judges refused to decide,  
The society dame  
With the "untarnished" name  
Showed a hate  
She no longer could hide.

She was labelled in life as the regular wife  
Of Paulsen of "Lucky Boy mine,"  
And as real wives were few  
They let her get through  
Without giving the marriage high sign.

She left Paulsen at home  
And had come all alone  
Thinking she would be belle of the ball  
And it galled her to find  
That the underworld kind  
Should be classed as her rival, at all.

---

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

---

She belittled the blonde  
And the whole demi-monde,  
And after she'd finished her say  
The blonde took the floor  
And without getting sore  
Remarked in a casual way:

"I truly confess  
That I never profess  
To being but just what you see  
I'm just what I am  
And I don't care a slam,  
But the big difference twixt you and me

"Is, the whole world can read  
Every action and deed,  
For I let folks think what they may,  
While you hide your flaws  
With society's laws,  
Yet we're made from the very same clay.

"And if all facts were known  
From the spirit you've shown;  
I'll bet that way back in your life  
You've been bad to the core,  
And I'll gamble what's more  
You're some *real* fellow's runaway wife."

A shot rent the air  
And the man on the chair  
Dropped a smoking gun on the floor,  
The society belle,  
With a terrified yell  
Fell dead twenty steps from the door.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

In a low sotto tone  
That was almost a moan  
The stranger addressed the crowd ;  
You'd believed in him too,  
For his words all rang true  
They were determined and plain but not loud :

"I'll tell you to-night  
That the dance hall dame's right ;  
She's the best of the two by a mile,  
She's all above board  
And don't pray to the Lord  
And hide 'neath an angel's smile.

"Her paramour,  
You'll find dead by his door,  
Now bring on your mounted police,  
I'm ready to go, but I want you to know  
That at last my mind is at peace.

"I've tramped night and day  
Suffered hell on the way,  
But one thought just drove me along  
That I'd even the score  
With the woman and more,  
I'd make them *both* pay for their wrong ;

"And my two little boys  
Back in old Illinois  
Who bless her each night when they pray  
Can mourn her as dead,  
And an angel instead  
Of the wanton who cast them away.

---

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

---

"For no woman should  
Disgrace motherhood  
And the vows that she took as a wife,  
If they're not sacred to her,  
She's a mongrel, a cur,  
And it's right she should forfeit her life.

"Just look at her face,  
You can see her disgrace,  
And to think that I once called her 'wife';  
Well, I've helped cleanse this earth,  
And I guess it was worth  
What's left of my miserable life.

"But it breaks my old heart,  
To think I must part  
From my treasures, my two little boys  
Whose baby hearts yearn  
For their Daddy's return  
To that home down in old Illinois.

"But I'm willing to pay,  
So just take me away,  
And if justice demands that I die,  
Don't let my two boys  
Back in old Illinois  
Ever know the real reason why.

"Just tell them I froze  
In the blizzard and snows,  
That their mother was good through and through,  
For sometimes a white lie  
Will save many a sigh,  
And I'll be much obliged to you."

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Well—he did'nt stand trial;  
No, sir, not by a mile,  
For the law of the North seemed to say:  
“Those two little boys  
Back in old Illinois,  
Need your life more than laws of to-day.”

So they just turned him loose  
Without offering excuse,  
And after they'd buried his wife  
He thanked all from his heart  
And prepared to depart  
For those boys he loved better than life.

And the good women and bad,  
Got together and had,  
Gold nuggets, instead of mere toys  
Wrapped up like a cake,  
For the stranger to take  
To his two little motherless boys.

And they watched the dog team  
Disappear up the stream  
While their hearts beat with unconscious joys,  
For they imbibed the thought,  
Of *pure* hometies he's brought  
From those boys back in old Illinois.

---

## HAWAII

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### HAWAII

In the heart of the seas,  
Kissed by sweet perfumed breeze,  
There's an island designed by the gods,  
Where the wintry winds  
And the summer sun blends,  
And the cloud throws its kiss to the sods,  
'Tis Nature's fair nest,  
On the ocean's great breast,  
A garden of enchanted dreams,  
Where December, like May,  
Is one long perfect day,  
Liquid sun fading into moonbeams ;  
And as I look back  
Over life's fading track,  
There's a longing that never will cease,  
For this paradise rest,  
Where God did His best,  
When He made it His masterpiece.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### SURF-BOARD RIDING

"WHEN you hear the laugh of the merry horde,  
You hang on tight to the old surf board.  
The wave comes on like a charging steed;  
You paddle away at break-neck speed;  
You feel the foam spray over your face,  
As the big wave breaks at the start of the race;  
Then you fly toward the shore with a sea-bird's grace.  
That's sport, old boy, real sport!"

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## TO MISS HONOLULU

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### TO MISS HONOLULU

I've written poems by the yard about those sunny climes,  
I've stretched imagination to its utmost in my rhymes;  
I've dreamed about those flowery spots where summer  
    ever dwells,

Where nature's fairest flowers breathe their perfume in  
    the dells.

Where sunbeams seem to nestle in the nooks of Lovers'  
    Lane,

Where paradise is only kissed by "drops of silvery rain,"  
And where the gardens of the gods are guarded by the  
    stars—

I've even let my eloquence paint fancy dreams of Mars;  
I've flattered Nature by the page until I've filled each  
    shelf,

I've lied about each sunny State 'till I believed it all my-  
    self;

But when I sailed 'round Diamond Head and took that  
    first grand view,

Believe me, Honolulu, I took off my hat to you.

I fell in love with you at sight, for your sweet sunny smile  
Just seemed to say, "I welcome you to God's own little  
    isle."

I knew that you were Nature's queen, whose realm knew  
    no strife—

I must confess I near proposed that you take me for life.  
It seems that Mother Nature gave you all her jewels rare

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And placed you on a throne with which no other can  
compare.

I'll not attempt to praise your charms for 'twould be  
wasting time;

Mere words could not do justice to a beauty so sublime.

If you'll permit a little slang 'twill just express my vote—

Honolulu, you're a Lulu and you've surely "got my goat."

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## A GLIMPSE OF HELL

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### "A GLIMPSE OF HELL"

*Written at the volcano of "Kilauea," on the Island of  
Hawaii. "Madame Pele" is the "goddess of fire"  
in the Hawaiian legend*

MINE Hostess, "Madame Pele," had on her party gown,  
Her garments shone so brilliantly the heavens wore a  
frown;

But before we reached her warm abode, I 'most forget to  
tell,

The guide had coyly hinted that we'd see "a glimpse of  
hell."

So we trudged across the lava and passed great gulping  
cracks,

With "hot-air" more convincing than many solid facts.

We toasted little souvenirs with heat from "down below"

To remind us all in after years of places some must go.

And then we took the final hike to "Pele's" furnace room,

And watched the fiendish, gulping fire leap from the  
"Crack o' doom."

It seemed like a "stage setting" of "Satan's Brocken  
scene,"

The smoke resembled curtains or a moving picture screen.

And when the wind blew it aside the tableau came to  
view,

And held you by some awful spell that seemed to chill  
you through.



---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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The fountains of that living fire kept leaping toward the  
sky,

You could hear their fiendish seething as each one was  
'bout to die.

The rocks kept sliding from each side and disappeared in  
flame.

'Twas Nature's process returning everything from whence  
it came.

The moon paled at the ghastly sight, "Old Faithful"  
seemed to yawn,

The smoke once more enveloped all, 'twas "Pele's cur-  
tains" drawn.

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## PRIDE OF THE GOLDEN WEST

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### "PRIDE OF THE GOLDEN WEST"

*Written for 'a benefit program right after the  
San Francisco earthquake*

FRIENDS, did you ever leave a place  
That you longed to visit again,  
And a big lump comes up in your throat  
When you're getting on the train,  
You feel like you're leaving something behind,  
And you really hate to start?

Well, 'Frisco holds the warmest spot  
In every traveler's heart;  
It's a regular "Garden of Happiness,"  
A city that has no nights,  
Where wealth and poverty side by side  
Go taking in the sights;

Where people live to enjoy life;  
Where mirth reigns early and late—  
You pass to the Mecca of gaiety  
When you enter the "Golden Gate."

For jolly good fellowship reigns supreme,  
And freedom fills the air;  
Why, even a poor old ragged tramp  
Receives a welcome there.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And the fellow who shakes you by the hand  
Don't do it with a frown.

When they say "Hello, Bill!" well, they mean it, pard,  
In good old 'Frisco town.

Whenever a city was in distress—

E'en in a foreign land—

Dear old 'Frisco was always first

To lend a helping hand.

Bejeweled by nature's every charm,

Which endeared her to every one,

No wonder God had chosen her

For the nest of the "Setting Sun."

Now that's old 'Frisco as she was,

The city of song and lore;

But now she's only a dream of the past,

For 'Frisco is no more.

The earthquake, in its mighty wrath,

Has sounded her funeral knell,

And changed her from a "Garden of Gods"

To a seething, burning Hell;

And those who played "Mine Host" so well

And made all our visits bright,

Are homeless, heartbroken wanderers,

In a city of ruins to-night.

So let's all lend them a helping hand,

For their loyalty stood the test;

Then we'll shed a tear for "Old 'Frisco"—

The pride of the Golden West.

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## IN CALIFORNIA'S SUNNY DELLS

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### IN DEAR OLD CALIFORNIA'S SUNNY DELLS

He strolled into the office where they manufacture songs,  
He says, "Excuse me, gentlemen, I won't detain you long.  
I see you write all kind of songs by the card upon your  
door,

And I want you to write one for me, tho' I can't sing any  
more.

"You see, my lungs are going fast, and I'll soon be laid  
away,

But I wanted you to hear this tale, and so I called to-day.  
Perhaps it won't appeal to you, but it's a story from my  
life,

About an old sweetheart of mine who was to be my wife.

"She was California's fairest maid, the belle of poppy  
land,

And all the lads from far and near had tried to win her  
hand.

I loved her as a boy, and when she grew to womanhood,  
We told our fond affections while we strolled thro' the  
wildwood.

"And in those dear old sunny dell's we named the wedding  
day;

But just before that happy time my loved one passed  
away.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Since then I've been a wanderer, but there's just one place  
for me,

Beside the one I loved so dear, beneath the orange tree.

"That's where I want to slumber, where the California  
breeze

Sings the pretty songs of nature, thro' the dear old Red-  
wood trees,

Where the balmy air is scented by the perfume of the  
flower,

Where the doves find Eden's trysting place beneath each  
shady bower;

"So just fix up the story and write a melody,

So it will live forever when they've all forgotten me.

And describe old California, where the sunshine ever  
reigns,

The greatest Song of Ages can be written from her fame.

"Tell of her shady bowers and her dear old sunny dells,  
And her pretty orange orchards where sweet fragrance  
ever dwells,

For she's the garden of the gods, where nature's gifts  
abound,

The Golden Gate to Paradise, where happiness is found.

"And picture, in your softest words, the spot in which she  
lies,

And describe the fairest maid who ever dwelt beneath its  
skies;

Tell the romance of the sweetest of old California's belles,  
And name the song 'In Dear Old California's Sunny  
Dells.'

---

## IN CALIFORNIA'S SUNNY DELLS

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"And perhaps some balmy moonlight night, out where  
the locusts wave,  
Some young romantic lover may sing it o'er my grave:  
My soul will then be happy, by the one I love so well,  
Who is sleeping now in 'Dear Old California's Sunny  
Dells.' "

He took his hat and started out, and as he said "Good-  
bye"

Each man within the office wiped a tear drop from his  
eye.

An inspiration from the heart seemed flowing with the  
tears.

They wrote a story for the song, the best of their careers.

The church bell's toll rang on the air so sweet and sad  
next day,

And told them in its plaintive tone a soul had passed away.

They wrote the music for their song from those chiming  
silvery bells,

And called it, as he wished, "In California's Sunny Dells."

And everyone who sings the song can picture in their  
heart

Two fond devoted lovers which e'en death could never  
part.

For in that pretty flowery dell they're sleeping side by  
side,

Those orange blossoms seem to tell she's now his bonnie  
bride.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And in that cosy corner where the birds sing all day long,  
Their love will live forever like that California song,  
And the violets above their grave the story sweet will tell  
Of two fond hearts who rest in "California's Sunny  
Dells."

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## QUEEN OF SONG

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### "QUEEN OF SONG"

#### *A Life's Story*

THE moonbeams spread their mellow gleam o'er Italy's  
flow'ry dells,

The star-lit sky seemed a garden on high, each ray a  
wild blue bell.

Each orb of night shed its brilliant light in a thousand  
angelic forms ;

The landscape seemed a garden of dreams, unvisited by  
wintry storms.

The mansion, decked in grand array, presented a beautiful  
sight,

The silvery strains of music told of a La Fiesta night.

'Twas a picture of Dreamland's Paradise, a Mecca un-  
ruled by the Fates.

As a song floated out on the balmy air, a tramp passed at  
the gates ;

'Twas the grandest song he'd ever heard ; it turned back  
the leaves of time

To the palmy days of his career, when he was in his  
prime.

It seemed to thrill his very soul ; his heart beat wild with  
joy

And as he listened to that song he seemed once more a  
boy.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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“In dear old California’s sunny dells,  
Where my fondest recollection ever dwells,  
’Neath the moonbeams’ mellow gleam,  
Life seems one sweet golden dream,  
In dear old California’s sunny dells.”

He stood there like a statue as he listened to that strain,  
His soul had found a paradise within that sweet refrain.  
’Twas a melody from heaven, each note an ecstasy  
From dear old California in the land of liberty.

The singer’s voice so soft and sweet, re-echoed thro’ the  
glen,  
He little dreamed how dear to him the singer once had  
been.  
He, too, had been a singer, a man well known to fame,  
Back in the dear old U. S. A. each newsboy knew his  
name.

Each gallery god, with loud applause, had worshipped at  
his shrine,  
And multitudes had drank his health with costliest of  
wines.  
But that was in the long ago before the hand of Fate  
Had made of him the ragged tramp who stood there at  
the gate.

And as he listened to that voice, ah! how his heart did  
long  
To be back in that Paradise, so pictured in the song!  
“In dear old California’s dells,” how dear that seemed to  
him;  
He knew each nook, each babbling brook, each Redwood’s  
bough and limb.

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## QUEEN OF SONG

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For as a boy he'd wandered through each dell and shady  
bower—

The song-birds sung their songs to him, he knew each leaf  
and flower.

'Twas there, in nature's garden, he won a maiden fair,  
The sweetest flower in the dell, a girl of beauty rare;

Her cheeks the envy of the rose; her hair a tint of gold;  
With eyes that look into your heart, the gem of Nature's  
mould.

She was the idol of his life, and all the whole day long  
He trained her voice, so that some time she'd be the  
Queen of Song.

Note by note he rounded out as if by magic spell,  
Until each tone was sweeter than the chime of silvery  
bells.

Success soon crowned his efforts, she reached the height  
of fame,

But in the zenith of her power, 'twas then the tempter  
came.

A man from far across the sea, of rank and countless  
gold,

Had placed his jewels at her feet, and bought her very  
soul.

She threw aside each marriage vow, forgot her husband's  
love:

Those glittering jewels chilled her heart, she forgot her  
God above.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Forgot the hand which guided her up to the goal of fame;  
She fled and left his broken heart to monument her shame.  
A heart who'd idolized her all thro' their wedded years,  
Must sink into oblivion and hide its bitter tears.

'Twas just another lost career, one more name on the roll  
Of those who seek forgetfulness within the "flowing  
bowl."

All life had lost its charms for him, his heart within was  
dead;

He became a poor old vagabond, with no roof o'er his  
head.

From clime to clime he wandered like a bird who'd lost a  
mate.

The remnants of a once great man now stood before the  
gate—

Stood listening to the voice he trained in happy bygone  
years.

Each silvery note which pierced his heart brought back  
fond mem'ry's tears.

He took a locket from his breast and gazed once at the  
face,

Then staggered back against the gate, his eyes looked into  
space.

And as each note came fainter his cheeks grew white and  
cold;

Those eyes within the locket seemed to pierce his very  
soul.

"In dear old California's dells," he heard the singer say,  
And with the last notes of the song the tramp's soul passed  
away.

---

## QUEEN OF SONG

---

Passed within the pearly gates to where a sweet repose  
Bids welcome just the same to those who wear the ragged  
clothes.

The La Fiesta ended with the reveller's merry shout ;  
The mansion doors were opened, and the Queen of Song  
passed out.

Passed out to where the man lay whom she wrecked in  
days of yore ;

To where the fates should leave their curse on her for-  
ever more.

She paused before the mansion gates to bid her last "Good-  
night,"

When she saw a golden locket sparkling in the bright  
moonlight.

Her own sweet girlish features from within that heart of  
gold

Brought back the past she thought was dead ; forgotten  
vows were told ;

Told how the heart she'd broken had suffered all those  
years ;

How every little keepsake was baptized in bitter tears ;

How the man who once had called her wife had sacrificed  
his name,

Became a tramp so that the world would never know her  
shame.

She knew her judgment day had come, she saw the hand  
of fate

That pointed to the lifeless form which lay there by the  
gate :

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

With face turned towards the star-lit sky, a smile so sweet  
and sad ;

She gave a shriek, her sentence came—the Queen of Song  
was mad.

Her brain afire, her reason gone, and every vow she'd  
made

Would haunt her conscience all through life: that was the  
price she paid.

While the heart she broke so long ago, which died for its  
own love,

Had passed to peace forever, with its Maker up above.

She knelt beside his lifeless form and sobbed just like a  
child,

And in her troubled brain she thought she saw him  
sweetly smile,

And lead her to the footlights, as he'd done so oft before.

She heard the gallery's grand applause which called for  
her encore ;

The stars were now her footlights, her audience was the  
trees,

The introduction to her song was whispered by the breeze.

The night birds seemed to welcome her, as they joined  
the merry throng,

To hear the last appearance of the grand old Queen of  
Song.

And as her voice rang on the air, as sweet as silvery bells,  
She sang life's sweetest ballad—"*In dear old California's  
sunny dells.*"

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## DEATH OF JOHN BARLEYCORN

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### DEATH OF JOHN BARLEYCORN

San Francisco, June 31st

SAN FRANCISCO "shook the shimmies"  
'Till the whole town had the jimmies,  
And then they shook poor old John Barleycorn;  
For the booze just poured in showers,  
And the slow music and flowers  
Lasted till the wee small hours of the morn.

Then they took old Al. K. Hall, sir,  
Backed him up against the wall, sir,  
And when I saw him fall, sir, I'll admit,  
He was not afraid to die, sir,  
For he didn't bat an eye, sir,  
But his lips were so darned dry he couldn't spit.

He was just as brave as Nero,  
For at the fatal hour of zero,  
He died, just like a hero, in his shoes.  
But I 'most forgot to tell, sir,  
He yelled just as he fell, sir:  
"You can all go to——ll, sir, for your booze."

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "THE SAMMY'S OATH"

I'm giving my life for you, old flag;  
That is, if it needs to be;  
And you bet I'll fight, and fight mighty hard,  
For you and liberty.

For every star in your dear old flag  
I'll account for a treacherous Hun;  
For every stripe I'll do my best  
To see that a battle is won.

You're going to be my Rosary,  
Old Flag of the brave and free;  
And when I've counted your last dear star,  
I'll make you proud of me.

This is not the boast of the idle mind,  
But the man who has figured it plain,  
Who has counted the cost and is willing to pay,  
So the rest of the world will gain.

To uphold the ideals for which you wave,  
For the freedom of one and all,  
You can count on me to fight like hell;  
I'll be there at the bugle call.

And if the supreme sacrifice  
Should be my lot to give;  
Don't worry, I'll go with a smile on my lips,  
So the free and the brave shall live.

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## THE WASH OUT

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### "THE WASH OUT"

AN old maid's lonely night gown  
Hung upon the backyard gate.  
It flirted with the breezes  
Trying hard to find a mate.

But one dark night a gust of wind  
Sent by the hand of fate  
Blew a bachelor's silk pyjamas  
To that same old backyard gate.

The combination on the gate  
Was gone next day at dawn,  
And the shirts began to carry "tails"  
Of an elopement on the lawn.

Now time works many changes,  
So all the gossips state,  
For now you'll find "small dollie clothes"  
On that same old backyard gate.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### AN OLD SWEETHEART OF MINE

A POOR old hungry bull dog  
Strolled into a butcher shop,  
He was so dog-gonned skinny,  
That the butcher thought he'd drop,  
So taking down a sausage link,  
He laid it on the floor,  
But tears came to that bull dog's eyes,  
As they heard him sadly roar :

"That sausage used to be an old sweetheart of mine,  
But it don't look much like the dog  
I loved in auld lang syne,  
Although I'm on starvation's brink,  
I'll not eat that missing link,  
Just because that sausage was  
An old sweetheart of mine."

A violinist played a tune  
On his violin one day,  
Those strains seemed quite familiar,  
To a tom cat o'er the way.  
He recognized those cat gut strings,  
That moaned their tone so low,  
They once belonged to his sweetheart,  
Not many years ago.

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## AN OLD SWEETHEART OF MINE

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He says, "You used to belong to an old love of mine,  
But you were amputated in appendicitis time,  
Though I get married every spring,  
I love live cats, but oh, you string,  
If I had ten lives to you I'd cling,  
You old sweetheart of mine."

A farmer strolled out to the hen house,  
On Thanksgiving Day.

He says: "I'm going to kill that old hen  
If she doesn't lay."

A rooster whispered in the hen's ear,  
Quickly as could be,

"If you don't lay an egg, sweetheart,  
We'll both be fricasee."

"Just because you are an old sweetheart of mine,  
Lay one little dinky egg and all will be sublime,  
Just one stingy egg will do, or we'll both be in a stew,  
If I could I'd lay one, too, you old sweetheart of mine."

A hair dresser cut the end off  
Of a milk cow's tail one day;  
And made a dandy cork screw curl,  
To sell to some old jay.

A bald old maid soon purchased it,  
And wore it down the lane,  
When an old bull recognized the curl  
And chased her back again.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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He says: "That used to belong to an old love of mine,  
Though styles have changed, it's now in front,

It once was worn behind."

The old maid slammed the door and cried,

"For Lord's sake tie that bull outside,"

But the poor old bull beefed till he died.

For that old sweetheart kine.

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## BOLSHEVIKI

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### BOLSHEVIKI

ONCE a chap whose name was Mickey  
Says: "I'll join the Bolsheviki,  
And we'll show these Bosses quick'y  
What is what.

We will do away with money,  
We'll trade work for beans and honey,  
We'll make cloudy days real sunny,  
And why not?

"We'll all get a little nervy,  
Turn this old world topsy-turvy,  
Make all straight things a bit curvy,  
For a change.  
We'll put the top right on the bottom,  
Let the Bosses know we've got 'em  
And explain after we've shot 'em  
Why it's strange.

"Just the minute that we're able,  
We'll turn each bank into a stable,  
And make History a fable,  
For it's 'bunk.'  
We'll turn each church into a brewery,  
And have 'low brows' on each jury,  
And when 'prohibs' show their fury—  
Get 'em drunk!"

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### WHO WON THE FOOTBALL GAME?

A LITTLE grease spot marks the place where once two  
mighty hordes  
Had fought with weapons to the death far mightier than  
swords;  
With weapons far more fatal than the cannon's mighty  
roar,  
More accurate than the boomerang or the rifle of the  
Boer.  
'Twas not the famous Gatling-gun or the Mauser, known  
to all,  
'Twas just a piece of pigskin known as the rugby ball.  
They met Thanksgiving afternoon, these sturdy, stolid  
bands,  
With chest protectors on their feet and brass knuckles on  
their hands,  
And as each gave their college yell, likewise their mighty  
strut,  
The grandstand vowed before 'twas thro' they'd eat each  
other up.  
And the football bounded o'er the field as it ne'er had  
done before,  
It knew it would have a kick coming, too, before the  
fray was o'er,  
But see, they've made a mighty rush, and it's not to rush  
the can,  
They meet, alas, the fight is o'er, there's not one living  
man;

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## WHO WON THE FOOTBALL GAME

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Tho' the full back was a trifle full, he's now empty as a  
vase,  
He looks as tho' both football teams had made a touch-  
down on his face.  
And gazing o'er this battle ground, where combat once  
held sway,  
A deathly silence reigns supreme as victor of the fray;  
A left arm marks the spot of one who'd been the high  
school pride,  
Still clasping in its mighty grasp, hair from the other  
side.  
And here and there and everywhere are noses, ears and  
toes;  
Each tells the tale of what they done to their unvanquished  
foes,  
And I've studied from all points of view,  
Until I'm most insane,  
But stranger, what I'd like to know is,  
Who in thunder won the game.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### A NUTTY NUT STORY

MISS HAZEL NUTT from Nuttingham,  
Sold Nuts for a Nutty grocer man;  
She had hazel nut eyes and chesnut hair—  
She would look at the nuts with a nutty stare.  
She sold hickory nuts to all the hicks  
And cocoanuts to the bald headed micks;  
She supported the whole Nutt family,  
She was good as a nutty girl ought to be,  
There was nothing but nuts in that nutty town,  
The squirrels were chasing them round and round.  
Every nut in town would follow her—  
They all went nutty when she was near  
'Twas on a bright nut'sundae morn  
In the Nutty house a Nutt was born,  
And every nut for miles around  
Came riding their chesnut nags to town,  
But when they saw this little Nutt  
He was drinking milk from a cocoanut.  
Old chesnut christened him Niggertoe,  
But old Ignuts, who had the dough,  
Says, "We'll call him Doughnuts here and now,  
Or else there'll be a nutty row."  
He says, "I'm a nut, and you're a nut,  
And every one in the house is a nut.  
There's cocoa, pea, pecan and wall,  
Old hickory, almond nut and all.

---

## A NUTTY NUT STORY

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But nutmeg says I'm a greater nut  
Than any nut in this nutty hut."  
Then grapenuts forced his way through the door,  
And the nuts all let out a nutty roar.  
Old wagon nut flew off its nut;  
He grabbed a shotgun by the butt,  
He cracked old hickory over the nut,  
And pitched him out of that nutty hut.  
Old peanut grabbed a birch nut limb,  
When pecan nut made a rush at him.  
They slammed old walnut against the wall,  
Hit chesnut's chest with a nut salad ball;  
When old axle nut made a bolt for the door,  
It made the whole Nutt family sore,  
And every nut on the family tree  
Was a raving nut at this jamboree.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "THE RUBE AT THE COUNTY FAIR"

I NEVER seen such a gosh durned time in all my whole  
career,  
The town was full of strangers, an' the strangers were  
full of beer,  
An' I guess the beer was full of hops, for the hop was full  
of dreams,  
An' the dreams were full of night-mares, an' ten thousand  
different schemes.  
It's all a pipe dream while you're there; when you leave  
you wake up to facts,  
For you ain't got enough money left in your jeans for a  
chaw of "Battle Axe,"  
There's all kinds of sharpers from A to Z, with all kinds  
of grafts on earth,  
An' I was the biggest blame rube in the bunch, for they  
"gouged" me fer all I was worth.  
They sold me balloons, an' canes, an' fans, till I swore I'd  
buy no more,  
An' I throwed at them nigger dolls on the rack, till my  
whole durned sides were sore,  
An' talk about side-shows and merry-go-rounds, well, I  
guess they were there with bells,  
An' fellers that oughter be herdin' sheep, run skin games  
under walnut shells.  
But the slickest guy in the whole blame bunch, an' the one  
that took my eyes,

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## THE RUBE AT THE COUNTY FAIR

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Was the long-haired, wall-eyed medicine man, who was  
there "jist to advertise,"  
He was goin' to give presents to everyone there, an' I  
thought he'd money to burn,  
But mine burned a hole in my pocket ; and I hardly could  
wait for my turn,  
He started by sellin' three bars of soap, which make lather  
"jist like ice cream."  
And altho' he said you could eat it, I wasn't much stuck  
on the scheme.  
But I bought a box of it just the same, an' a box of his  
tooth powder, too,  
When I told him I hadn't a tooth in my head, he said "It  
will grow in a few,"  
And after he'd sold out three bottles of oil he gave back  
each blame ten cents,  
An' the crowd all hollered and threw up their hats, for we  
thought that he was a prince.  
Then he started a-sellin' some electric belts ; they cost you  
a dollar a-piece,  
An' it seemed like every blame man at the fair flocked  
'round him jist like geese.  
They pushed an' shoved an' tugged away, an' I crowded  
with all my might,  
For I 'lowed to have an electric belt, if I had to stay there  
all night.  
He said he'd give every one a prize, as 'twas "jist to  
advertise,"  
An' I thought he'd do like he did before, so I paid my coin  
an' looked wise.  
He gave a blue ticket with every belt, which entitled you  
to the prize,

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

An' kept flashing his bank roll between every sale, just  
merely to jolly us guys.  
Well, stranger, you'd been surprised at the sale; but he  
durned near bankrupted the town,  
He told 'em they'd all have electric lights, if they wore  
them ere belts around,  
An' when he got ready to give out the prize, now you  
might think I'm using bad dope,  
But instead of the dollar we all thought we'd get, he gave  
us a "bar of soap,"  
An' he left the whole gang standin' there, not realizin'  
what he'd done,  
Jist watchin' him drivin' off down the road, that long-  
haired son-of-a-gun;  
An' I'll bet the devil's a-wearin' a belt when that medicine  
man gets there;  
But I hope to goodness if I get there, too, they won't have  
a County Fair.

## K 9

A POOR old hungry dog lay sleeping on the railroad track,  
The only friend that stuck to him was a flea upon his  
back,

And dreams of good old T-bone steaks went coursing  
through his brain,

And as he slept in sweet repose, he didn't hear the train.  
The train came dashing round the curve, the train crew  
held their breath,

It seemed the trees commenced to bow at that impending  
death,

The engineer jumped to his post, the fireman to his seat,  
The poor old canine little dreamed he'd soon be sausage  
meat.

A sudden crash, a sickening thud; the train passed out of  
sight

And "fifty-seven" kinds of dog lay in the pale moonlight.  
And like a true friend to the last, on each piece the flea  
dined,

'Then wrote upon the railroad tie, "He's the finest of his  
kind,

His name in life was 'only Bill,' in death it's changed for  
fair,

Instead of 'only Bill,' it's now 'Bill-Ony,' 'Bill of fare.'"

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### WHISKY BILL

WHISKY BILL, the human "still,"  
Came down to the town of Sutter;  
And after Bill had drunk his fill,  
He laid down in the gutter.

But the citizens of Sutter Creek  
Indignantly did mutter  
That Whisky Bill from Jacksonville  
Could not reside in Sutter.

So Whisky Bill to Jacksonville  
Was sent in a coal wagon;  
The driver took a good supply  
So Bill could keep a jag on.

When Jacksonville saw Whisky Bill,  
They held a big mass meeting;  
The mayor of that mining town  
Addressed it with this greeting:

"Fellow hens, and citizens,  
We must protest to Sutter,  
For this town is no dumping ground  
When they want to clean their gutter.

---

## WHISKY BILL

---

"While Whisky Bill, the human 'still,'  
Is far too drunk to utter,  
We'll make a rack, and *carry* him back  
To that one horse town of Sutter."

So up the hill from Jacksonville,  
With all their hearts a-flutter,  
This bold parade, quite unafraid,  
Hiked for the town of Sutter.

But just half way, to their dismay,  
They heard a distant mutter,  
'Twas delegates with proclamates,  
Sent from the town of Sutter.

And when they met, I'll ne'er forget,  
'Twas like a peal of thunder;  
They each gave vent to argument,  
To snow the other under.

Says Jacksonville: "This human 'still'  
Is a citizen of Sutter,  
And they could see the same as we  
Were their heads not filled with butter."

When Sutter Creek was heard to speak,  
She didn't even stutter;  
But said that Bill from Jacksonville  
Could not pollute their gutter.

They argued right through day and night  
Without the least desistance,  
When Whisky Bill, the human "still,"  
Came to both town's assistance.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

"I'm sober now, and anyhow,  
Since *both* towns want no liquor,  
I've got a plan that's simply grand,  
For no plan could be slicker.

"Don't be deceived, I too, believe  
You should have prohibition;  
I'll show you how, if you'll allow,  
That is, with your permission.

"Suppose you buy both town's supply,  
And bring each keg and bottle;  
And I'll agree to store it free  
By pouring it down my throttle.

"You all can see, with no whisky,  
Or beer, at your disposal,  
You'll be bone dry, so why not try  
This scheme,—that's my proposal."

Both towns agreed, and with great speed  
They loaded every wagon;  
And Whisky Bill, the human "still,"  
Prepared to get a jag on.

He didn't stall, but drank it all,  
And never changed a feature;  
And when the last wee drop had passed,  
He was sober as a preacher.

They heard him roar: "Bring on some more,  
Be careful and don't waste it;  
Bring the supply, for I'm so dry  
I've **just** begun to taste it."

---

## WHISKY BILL

---

They told Whisky Bill that Jacksonville  
Was dry and so was Sutter;  
His face turned red, he dropped stone dead,  
For his heart refused to flutter.

To their surprise, poor Bill's demise  
"Commenced" the row all over,  
For each town proved the other one  
Should plant him 'neath the clover.

And Jacksonville yelled loud and shrill:  
"That bonehead town of Sutter,  
Can bury Bill upon their hill  
Or leave him in their gutter."

And Sutter Creek let out a shriek  
That shook each hill and valley;  
They cussed and discussed Jackson  
From its mainstreets to each alley.

One speaker said: "The town's so dead  
It's now a cemetery.  
Their whisky killed poor Whisky Bill  
So it's up to them to bury."

And pro and con, they argued on  
"Till all were in a fury;  
When finally someone proposed  
They leave it to a jury.

Quite odd, indeed, but all agreed  
That Bill was so well pickled,  
He'd keep serene till Court convened,  
And all seemed greatly tickled.



---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

But strange to say, the very day  
That Court began its session,  
The State went dry, and I imply  
It was a mute confession

That Whisky Bill, the human "still,"  
Was prohibition's starter;  
He drank towns dry, and died thereby  
To prove himself a martyr.

When Court began, most every man  
From Jacksonville to Sutter,  
Had learned a speech that he could screech  
Without the slightest stutter.

The County Clerk began to shirk,  
He claimed this record breaker  
Of witnesses could be sworn best  
By twenty census takers.

They were short and tall, and large and small,  
Fat, lean, betwixt, and lanky,  
With every race on this earth's face  
From Chinese to a Yankee.

And by the time they got in line,  
The Judge was in a fury;  
There wasn't anybody left  
To serve upon the jury.

His fist was clenched, he hit the bench,  
And bellowed like a claxon;  
He called curses down on both these towns  
Of Sutter Creek and Jackson.

---

## WHISKY BILL

---

He says: "This is a civil war  
That's decidedly uncivil,  
And as far as I'm concerned you folks  
Can all go to the divil."

And then the argument began  
Up spoke a gent from Sutter,  
"We need no jury to decide  
Who'll sleep within our gutter."

And Jacksonville could not keep still  
But vociferously did mutter,  
"No jury ever could decide  
We bury stiffs from Sutter."

They argued 'til the Judge's beard  
Grew down beneath his trousers;  
It sounded like a battle fought  
With machine guns, mines, and mausers.

And Whisky Bill had lain so still  
That both the towns had missed him,  
And by evaporation all the booze  
Oozed from his system.

His heart that had been petrified  
By gin, rum, wine and whisky  
Began to thump him back to life,  
And Bill raised up quite frisky.

He strolled into the Courthouse,  
In the midst of all the fury,  
He hollered loud above the crowd:  
"Folks, never mind the jury."

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

"I've waited for old 'Gabe' to blow,  
A welcome with his trumpet,  
I've been waitin' for old 'Satan'  
To say: 'Take this load and dump it.'

"I've waited still for Jacksonville  
To heed the wish of Sutter,  
I laid so meek for Sutter Creek  
To agree with Jackson's mutter.

"And since Heaven, Hell, and these two burgs  
Will grant me no admission,  
I'm durned if I'll lay high and dry,  
As a deadhead exhibition.

"Bring on the booze, no time to lose,  
We'll toast my resurrection."  
But he heard the cry: "The whole State's dry,  
Ever since the last election."

To prove it true, what did they do  
But bring a "near beer toddy"  
A smell, a yell, and what the——well  
It poisoned his whole body.

He says: "I see it's off with me,  
But I'll give each earthly fixture,  
If you can tell me where in hell  
They ever found that mixture.

"Boys, take me down to Stocton Town,  
Where they've got a Crematory;  
And there I'll lay 'til Judgment Day  
As ashes, in my glory.

---

## WHISKY BILL

---

You're all aware, I did my share  
To go where Fate assigned me  
But that awful drink has made me think  
I'm not leaving much behind me.

"Before Heaven, Hell, and this old earth,  
I make this bold admission,  
I'd rather be a charcoal  
Than stand for such 'prohibition.'"

Dear Critic:

Some lines I rhymed in double time,  
And then again just single,  
Some folks who read, like lines indeed  
Where everything's a jingle.  
Before you guess, I'll now confess  
Just why I changed the metre,  
If each line rhymed a dozen times  
You'd get dizzy as a teeter;  
And folks might think you'd had a drink  
Like "Bill" if your tongue twisted;  
And that is why, each time I'd try  
The Muse firmly resisted.  
So those who pause to pick out flaws  
Will understand the reason,  
This alibi, I hope will try  
And show them in due season.  
And to others who don't care a sou  
If a metre's worth a tinker,  
You'll all agree, I'm sure, with me  
That Bill was quite *some* drinker.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

### THAT JITNEY BUS OF MINE

I've cussed it and I've mussed it,  
And I've pushed it down the road;  
I've coaxed it and I've hoaxed it,  
And I've even packed its load.

I've cranked it and I've spanked it  
And I've begged the thing to run;  
I've tried everything from Fall to Spring  
That ever has been done.

When I write about the cussed thing,  
From front to rearmost wheel;  
I have to change the metre  
To express just how I feel.

I've warmed the carburettor,  
With hot water by the pail;  
I've primed it with directions  
That were never known to fail.

I've cleaned up every spark plug,  
I've even bathed it in the sun;  
And when I got through nursing it  
The blamed thing wouldn't run.

---

## THAT JITNEY BUS OF MINE

---

I've even strained its gasoline,  
I've put perfume in its oil;  
I've manicured the battery,  
And tied ribbon on the coil.

I've kept it like a pig pen,  
So my friends would feel at home;  
And when I'd want to show it off,  
The blame thing wouldn't "roam."

I've prayed for thieves to steal it,  
So they'd get stung by the deal;  
But if they tried to start it,  
They could never turn a wheel.

If I only had an enemy  
Just to give him that machine;  
I'd know I had the best of him  
By everything that's mean.

I'd dump it in the river;  
But I'd know when that was done,  
It would pollute all of the water  
Till the salmon *couldn't run*.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

### "THE IMMORTAL COOTIE"

THE mulligan was steaming and the java it was hot,  
And "Hobo Red" was jabbing ties beneath the banquet  
pot,

While "Filthy Pete" was snoring with his back against a  
tree,

And the hobo camp was peaceful, as a hobo camp should  
be.

That is, it all seemed quite serene as far as laymen see,  
But not to "high-brows" who were versed in Hobo-ology.  
The silence gave mute evidence of discordant undertone,  
And wounded hobo dignity just had to "pick its bone."  
Propriety was outraged, and "Red's" feelings were hurt  
For the "Dawson Kid" was airing all the cooties on his  
shirt.

Says "Dago Frank," "That's one real jinks, you'll meet a  
tragic end,

It always comes to every "bo" who kills his bosom friend,  
I remember well when 'Fresno Slim' fell underneath the  
freight,

And 'Rusty Smith' got lockjaw from a dog in Utah State.  
They both had broken every vow that our 'fratern' has  
kept,

By murdering their 'seam squirrels' with a dose of anti-  
cept."

"Aw, cut that pulpit stuff, Frank," said "Dawson" with a  
sneer,

---

## THE IMMORTAL COOTIE

---

"I don't believe in hodoo's and I've hoboed 'leven year.  
Why, I've killed 'em and I've coal 'iled 'em, I've even  
changed my shirt.  
I've rode the rods to hell and back and never have been  
hurt;  
I've been entertained in every jail from here to Mexico,  
I've got hand-outs from Vancouver to that burg called  
Buffalo.  
Now all you guys lay off of me, or you'll get just what  
you need,  
I don't intend to kill 'em all, I'll leave enough to breed;  
Go on and fix the 'fodder' for I'm hungry as a bear,  
And let me finish this parade for it's durn cold in the  
air."  
So "Red" stirred up the mulligan and burned his left  
lunch hook  
And offered up a favorite prayer you'll not find in the  
Book.  
Then "T-Bone" Slivers joined the bunch with a bundle  
'neath each arm,  
'Twas a flock o' grub he'd borrowed from a "Philanth"  
on the farm.  
So "Red" spread all the banquet out on nature's table-  
cloth,  
And all the hobos clustered just to "gurgle down the  
froth."  
Old "Pete," caressed his tattered coat, and turned the  
collar up,  
And played a regular symphony as he gulped the second  
cup.  
Says "Dawson," "There's a message in the frosty chilly  
morn  
That seems to say I'm needed down in Sunny Californ',



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

This bitin' air of Canada has slipped me my conje,  
So I'm goin' to grab the rattler when the cow train heads  
this way."  
"Sit down and eat," says "Dago," "or you'll get left in  
the cold  
For 'Filthy Pete' is flirting with about his seventh bowl."  
Just then a red hot coal pops out and goes down "Daw-  
son's pants,  
And all the grub was tramped to death beneath his tragic  
dance.  
The coffee gave it's dying kick by scalding both his knees,  
The last warm breath of mulligan soon faded on the  
breeze.  
The camp looked just like "No Man's Land" when the  
tanks had made their stand,  
The air was full of cuss words never heard by mortal  
man.  
They all jumped on the "Dawson Kid" and kicked him  
black and blue,  
Then rolled him in the mulligan to try and bring him to.  
And when his eyes were opened they heard him softly say,  
"Boys, dump me in a box car that is headed Frisco way,  
I see where 'Dago Frank' was right, the hoodoos hold  
their sway,  
The cootie is a sacred bird from now till judgment day.  
And when I'm rambling toward the south (though your  
feelin's all are hurt)  
I'll make amends and 'pologize to each one on my shirt.  
I'll hug 'em and caress 'em like a mother her first born,  
And I promise I'll not take a bath 'Till *Gabriel blows his  
horn.*"

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## IN TALLGRASSVILLE

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### IN TALLGRASSVILLE

EVER sit in meditation  
At a little tall grass station  
For a ticket home and three square meals a day,  
While the landlord of the "beanery"  
Gloms your wardrobe and your scenery  
And the baggageman is beefing 'bout his pay?  
If the neighbors had just "hovered"  
All the bills you could have covered,  
And you'd had enough to get to the next stand.  
When some rube you feel like flayin'  
Says, "If you'd cum round last hayin"  
Or else, "B'Gosh you ought to brung a band."  
Then the cook you gave the passes,  
Roasts you bout the two "Prop glasses"  
And says, "He knew durn well the show was bum"  
While they jabber like a parrot  
You just have to grin and bear it.  
Then it's hard to keep your humor in good plumb;  
What's the use to get disgusted,  
It's no disgrace if you are busted,  
But it's mighty inconvenient we'll admit,  
Don't get weak and be a "Cougher"  
Though 'tis hell to be a pauper,  
For that's the time you want to show your grit;  
Just imagine they are supers  
And that you're a real live trouper,

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

Swell up and wear a smile from ear to ear.  
Tell 'em something that will please 'em,  
That you'll square up all next season  
And you'll carry your own audience next year.  
You can still be on the level  
And just kid them like the devil,  
For you'll find the old "Bull con" will always pay,  
Then just start some tune a humming  
When you hear the engine coming,  
Then make your little quiet "Get away."

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## SINCE MOVING PICS HOLD SWAY

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### SINCE THE "MOVING PICS" HOLD SWAY

WHEN a troupier's got a "nickel" with a "dollar" appetite,  
And his stomach starts a growling for 'most everything in  
sight.

He looks into the window of a little bum cafe  
And his mouth just starts to water, but his pocket book  
says "nay."

And he dreams of good old "T-bones" that he killed in  
days of yore,

And the banquets with "chickens" whet his appetite the  
more.

And he hugs the lonesome nickel with a miser's fond  
"caress,"

And the doughnuts seem to murmur, "Bo, this is the  
right address."

He grips his belt the tighter, and tries some tune to hum.  
And cusses "Moving Pics" for putting "show biz" on  
the bum;

And the doughnuts keep on smiling in their luring sort of  
way,

And the odor of the Java takes him back to yesterday.  
'Tis a dream to him far sweeter than the famous "twilight  
sleep,"

But with grim determination he resolves that he will keep  
That poor old lonesome nickel for a far off rainy day  
For dates are scarce as hens' teeth since the "moving pics"  
hold sway.

---

# THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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## THESPIAN GHOSTS

THERE is a graveyard on the coast  
Where scores of troupers go,  
And on the tombstones found within  
Are names of many shows.

You'll find relics there of opera troupes  
Who have fallen by the way;  
And ghosts of silenced vaudevilles  
Do stunts the livelong day.

And here and there you'll find the graves  
Of poor old Repertoires;  
I supposed that they've re-organized  
Upon the golden shores.

The billboards have gone to decay,  
Their Lithos are no more;  
The only bills that still remain  
Are hotel bills galore.

Now the Good Book says that up above  
They'll all invited be;  
I'd like to sit in the bald-headed row  
At that professional matinee;

---

## THESPIAN GHOSTS

---

For some shrewd manager, up above,  
Tho' he made a frost below,  
Will have them signed at "Fifteen" per,  
To give a continuous show.

But if he intends to tour "Hell,"  
And make a few stands on the earth,  
You may depend that he'll get wise  
And give "Chehalis" a wide berth.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### RHYMING BILL

RHYMING BILL the village sage sat on a dry goods box,  
He gave his pants a mighty heave to show his spotted sox,  
He opened up the "Weekly Squak" to read his latest  
"Pome"

And visions of undying fame were foremost in his dome,  
He read it through with knitted brow then gave his usual  
spit

And says: "These Linotype' machines kaint spell a  
cussed bit,

They've changed the whole blame metre till it doesn't  
jazz at all,

They left the best line out, I had, about 'after the bawl,'  
It ain't no use to rack your brain for jingly words that  
rhyme,

Fer some durn low-browed printer's sure to spile it every  
time

And then some half brained critic

Who's wrote nuthin' himself

Will say your stuff is putrid and should be laid on the  
shelf.

Hereafter I'll write what I want, I won't take any pains,  
I'll jist ignore critics and I'll write fer folks with brains,  
As long as I have got a 'punch' and 'red blood' in my  
stuff

The folks who pay their coin to read will say, it's quite  
enough.

---

## RHYMING BILL

---

But the quickest way fer me, to fame, is to shoot that  
printer gink,

That jazzes all my poems up till critics say they stink  
I'll be doin' Bards a favor and I'll get the whole world's  
vote

For then the human race can read each poem *As It's  
Rote."*



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### MCDONALD AND THE RAT

You've heard of Jack McDonald,  
The one time famed legit,  
Who, just to make show business mad,  
Decided he would quit.  
Then he pranced before the camera,  
So future tongues could tell  
That all the talent left this world  
When McDonald went to hell.  
And then he cast his paints aside  
And took the choo-choo train,  
And rambled back to 'Frisco  
To start life o'er again.  
He raised his right hand above his head,  
And swore a mighty swear,  
And all the barkeeps quaked with fear,  
When Jack said: "Have a care  
I'm going to be a prohibish,  
And put down all the booze,  
So the future straight and narrow path  
Won't be marked with drunkard's shoes.  
I'll see that all saloons are closed;  
I'll buy up the supply;  
And then I'll pour it down my throat  
To make the State go dry."  
Just then a rat jumped on his coat,  
And nestled near his chest,  
He cried: "Ye gods! I've got 'em!"

---

## McDONALD AND THE RAT

---

As he stripped down to his vest,  
And when he saw it was a rat,  
Like an acrobatic star,  
He did a double somersault  
To the middle of the bar.  
His face assumed a deathly white,  
His eyes filled up with tears;  
'Twas the first time he'd been sobered up  
For almost twenty years.  
He cried: "I've tried all kinds of brands,  
Seen more snakes than you can tell,  
But show me the brand that produced the rat,  
And prohibition can go to hell."

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### THE SPIRIT OF ROTARY

IN the midst of jest it is always best  
To have one serious thought.  
So mine is regarding Rotary  
And the wonderful good it brought.  
And all of you Rotarians  
Are earning your place in the sun.  
You are writing your name on the tablet of fame  
By the real human deeds you've done.  
There's no use to wait till a man is dead  
To give him the credit that's due,  
And that is the reason that every town  
Should take off its hat to you.  
You've accepted a work that is noblest of all,  
"Doing good for the good you can do."  
Your monument will be a "better world"  
When all of your labors are through.  
You're proving that "live men bury the dead,"  
So let this be your motto on earth:  
"He who gives is he who lives  
To get his money's worth."

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## WHEN AN ELK'S AN ELK

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### WHEN AN ELK'S AN ELK

THE simple obligation doesn't make a man an Elk,  
It isn't simply signing up your name;  
It's living all the wondrous deeds the ritual speaks about,  
And helping others in life's busy game.

When a herd winds slowly o'er the range,  
Each one pursues his course;  
But if any kind of trouble should appear,  
The strong protects the weaker one,  
No matter what the odds.

And that's the Elkdom spirit we hold dear,  
So read those obligations and figure each one out;  
Do unto others all the good you can,  
And then you'll realize just what it means to be an Elk;  
You'll find B.P.O.E. stand for a "MAN."

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# THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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## IN MEMORY

*Dedicated to the B. P. O. E. Lodge*

At eleven o'clock we give a thought,  
To those who have gone before,  
Once every year we bring them back,  
As they were in days of yore.

We remember all the deeds they did,  
We recall each smiling face,  
We picture them as they were in life  
For each left a vacant place.

A place we keep green in memory,  
A place no one else can fill,  
But our thoughts are a monument to them,  
Who've gone "over the top" of life's hill.

At eleven o'clock a silent prayer  
Is offered to Him above,  
For those who have joined the Silent Herd  
To remind them of our love.

And when we've joined that Silent Herd  
No prouder thought can be,  
Than to know we live in memory  
Of the great B. P. O. E.

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## PIERRE MARCHANDE

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### PIERRE MARCHANDE

'Twas a miserable night in the Prison Camp  
In back of the German lines;  
The big Uhlan Guard was cursing fate  
For his watching the Allied "Schwein";  
There were prisoners from far off Canada,  
And the "Land of the Kangaroo";  
There were Irish, Scotch, and Britishers,  
Some French and Yankees, too.  
And they huddled down on the barren ground,  
A half starved, shivering mass,  
Hoping to God that a bomb would drop  
From some aeroplane that passed.  
The corral was made with electric wires  
On which sharp barbs suspend,  
And every man who tried to escape  
Had met a sudden end.  
But every day some careworn cuss,  
Half crazed from this Hell on earth,  
Would dash himself against that fence  
While the Uhlan chuckled with mirth.  
And if ever a fiend incarnate  
Was sent to taunt men's souls,  
This Uhlan was the Masterstroke  
That came from the Devil's moulds.  
There wasn't one human feature  
That was left on his cynical face;

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

He could watch men die for the want of a drink,  
And smile with an Angel's grace.  
In the last addition of prisoners  
That was brought in by the Huns,  
Was a giant Texan Cowboy,  
Who came from the Land of Guns.  
With the fighting heart of a tiger,  
With muscles like tempered steel,  
The sight of that bullying Uhlan  
Made the blood tingle down to his heel;  
He had stood the taunts and the jeering,  
With never an outward sign,  
But he told himself that the Uhlan guard  
Had reached the end of his line.  
God! how he hated that Uhlan,  
And the impulse within him that night  
Just made him long for a chance against odds  
In any kind of a fight.  
But he knew with those wires between them  
There wasn't a ghost of a show,  
For his strength would go the starvation route  
In another week or so.  
So he settled down on the cold damp ground  
With his head resting on his knees,  
And a thunderstorm appeared in the sky  
To add to their misery.  
That night as the Guard was making his rounds  
Lest the Yankee should forget,  
He threw a stone, but the Cowboy said:  
"Don't fear, I'll get you yet!"  
And the storm raged on in its fury  
'Till one of that half crazed throng

---

## PIERRE MARCHANDE

---

Asked the Texan: "Are the Germans right,  
Is the rest of the world all wrong?"  
With a voice brimful of confidence,  
That expressed more than words in its tone  
That is backed by the long experience  
Of the man who has battled alone,  
Who has staked his life with a ghost of a chance  
And won because he dared,  
The Texan said to the half crazed man,  
And his eyes just fairly glared:  
"Don't lose your nerve, old comrade,  
Our time is coming yet;  
A fight is not lost 'till the finish  
And these Huns will get theirs, you bet!  
If there still is a just God above us  
Who fights on the side of Right,  
All I ask is just one little chance  
To mix with that Uhlan to-night."

In a twinkling, a peal of thunder  
That shook the very sod  
Gave away to a flash of lightning  
As though sent by the hand of God.  
It landed square on those electric wires,  
And destroyed the dynamo,  
And both the Huns in the lookout Tower  
Were knocked senseless by the blow.  
The second flash of lightning,  
Lit up the whole Prison yard,  
And the Texan caught a glimpse through the fence  
Of the burly Uhlan Guard.  
God! how he'd longed for that moment!  
It seemed like he'd waited an age,



---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And with one bound he went over the fence

Like a tiger from its cage.

The Uhlan fired just one shot

But his pistol missed the mark,

And the rest of the fight to a finish

Was hidden in the dark.

But between the storm's sobbing and moaning,

You could hear the Hun gasping for breath,

For the big Texan slowly but surely

Was choking the Uhlan to death.

When the storm had passed on in its fury,

And Dawn had usurped the night,

The ghastly form of the Uhlan Guard

Presented a horrible sight.

Instead of that mocking, triumphant smile,

There was a terrified look of fear

That symbolized what the Huns would be

Inside of another year.

And the Texan who had wreaked his vengeance

On this taunting hound of Hell

Was many miles toward the Allied Lines

Near a humble Cot in a dell.

He looked in through the window,

And the sight that met his eye

Just took him back to a Texas ranch

And recalled a fond "Good-bye."

'Twas a mother with three little children

Who were hovered around her knee;

As he watched her dry the tears from her eyes,

He wondered who she could be,

---

## PIERRE MARCHANDE

---

Well—

Jeanne was a daughter of Sunny France,  
She helped to till the sod;

Two beautiful girls and an angel boy  
Was her precious gift from God.

The girls she loved with a mother's love,  
But of the boy she was even more fond,  
For he was the image of Pierre Marchande  
Who had passed to the Great Beyond.

When war spread its blight o'er this sun-kissed land,  
And France called for her sons,

Pierre Marchande with the heart of a man  
Was the first to shoulder a gun.

As he kissed Jeanne and his two little girls,  
He fought the tears from his eye,

But he sobbed like, a child with a broken heart,  
As he bade his boy "Good-bye."

But he crossed himself as he marched away,  
And he offered a silent prayer,

That God would be kind to Jeanne and the girls,  
And the pride of his life, "Pierre."

Since then four years had come and gone

Which were long as a life well spent;  
Four years 'neath the rule of the bullying Hun,

Great God! what a lot that meant!  
Four years of hunger and misery—

Four years of curses and cold—  
Four years that will go down in History

As four years that can never be told.  
And Jeanne had gone through these years of Hell

With the true Frenchwoman's pride,  
And every night by a dim candle light

She'd take out a careworn letter

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

That was written by Pierre Marchande

On the very night he passed away

At the "Hopital le Grand";

It read:—

"Dear Little Mother,

I'm writing to you and the kiddies,

For the last time in this life;

I fell for the France that I worship,

For you and the girls I adore,

For my little Pierre, God Bless him!

And although we'll not meet any more,

I know it will comfort and cheer you

To learn that the Yankees are here,

With their help, and that of the British

You'll see Victory inside of a year.

Kiss both of my dear little girlies,

Press little Pierre to your heart,

Be a brave little woman, my darling,

And although we are going to part,

I'll meet you again up in Heaven.

Be brave dear, the rest of your life;

Remember the golden 'To-morrow—

Good-night, and Good-bye, darling wife."

This was the letter she cherished,

It was tear-stained on every part;

It was smuggled to her by a prisoner,

And she kept it so close to her heart;

And while some would have asked: "Is this Justice?

Is there really a God after all?"

Jeanne kept her faith in her Maker,

And she knew He would answer her call.

---

## PIERRE MARCHANDE

---

And then with her brood to her bosom,  
They'd all bow their heads in prayer,  
And ask God to guide all their footsteps  
Until they should join Pierre.

As the Texan took in the surroundings,  
A big lump came up in his throat;  
And he wasn't ashamed of the honest tears  
On the sleeve of his tattered coat.  
For the empty halls and the barren walls,  
And the raggedy rugs on the floor,  
All told of the battle that Jeanne had fought  
To keep the wolf from the door.  
But she never complained or pitied herself,  
And like all women good to the core,  
She found her reward in the deeds she did  
And she asked for nothing more.

The Texan tapped on the window,  
And the Frenchwoman opened the door;  
She knew he was one of the Allies  
By the uniform he wore.  
And although they spoke different languages,  
Their eyes read each other's soul,  
And sympathy's bond seemed to tell them  
They were fighting toward the same goal.  
All day the guns belched and thundered,  
And the Cowboy could tell by the sound,  
That Foch and his work was counting,  
For the Allies were gaining ground.  
And he knew that the German soldiers  
Would "raze" every house in sight,  
As they drove the civilians farther back  
To prepare for another fight.

---

## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

When the Frenchwoman scented the danger,  
A new terror entered her heart;  
She pictured more untold miseries,  
And perhaps she would have to part  
From little Marie and Flora—  
From her own darling boy, Pierre,  
She sank on to the old fashioned sofa,  
And buried her head in despair.  
And the Texan soon figured the meaning,  
And gently he pressed her arm,  
To assure her he'd do his utmost  
To save her and the kiddies from harm.  
Then he drew down the blinds on the window,  
To shut out the view of the yard,  
As he fingered the German revolver  
That belonged to the Uhlan Guard.

When the horses' hoofs in the distance,  
Proved the Germans were drawing near,  
He hid himself in a closet  
And motioned them not to fear.  
An officer and three soldiers  
Dismounted in front of the door,  
And entered the house to take everything  
That wasn't nailed down to the floor.  
They ripped curtains off the window,  
Took the bedclothes all off the bed;  
And the officer reached for a picture  
That was hanging above his head;  
And Jeanne on her knees plead for mercy—  
'Twas the picture of Pierre Marchande;  
But the cruel Hun brought the blood to her head  
With a blow from his brawny hand.

---

## PIERRE MARCHANDE

---

Four shots rang out from the closet ;  
Three Germans dropped to the floor,  
And the mighty Texan sprang like a wolf  
On the officer by the door.  
And little Pierre of the jet black hair  
Was changed into a man,  
His fists were clenched and he yelled in French ;  
“Vive, l’Americain !”

As they fell to the floor, the German sword  
Cut a gash in the Texan’s side,  
But he fought with that power that comes to a man  
When a fiend has crawled into his hide.  
They kicked over the table, and knocked down the stove ;  
The sword slid in under a chair,  
When the German rolled from the Texan’s grip,  
He found it wasn’t there ;  
For little Pierre of the jet black hair  
Had it raised above his head,  
And he brought it down with all his might  
And struck the German dead.  
Then the Texan, faint from loss of blood,  
Pulled himself up by a chair ;  
He looked at the boy with a smile and said ;  
“God Bless You! Little Pierre!”  
From the distance, the sound of rushing men  
Caused Jeanne to quake with fear ;  
But ’twas music to the Texan’s ears,  
For he knew who was drawing near.  
’Twas the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack  
Who’d been fighting side by side ;  
As the boys rushed on in a human flood,  
The Texan swelled with pride ;

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Two Canucks and a Yank bolted in through the door  
And sized everything up at a glance;  
Then they tenderly picked the Texan up  
To learn the circumstance.

They looked at the Germans dead on the floor  
And a Canuck says: "Yank, you're there!"  
But the Texan replied: "Boys, I'm a boob,  
Give the credit to 'Little Pierre'."

They gave him "First aid to the injured";  
He told the Frenchwoman "Good-bye",  
And hugged the three little kiddies,  
As he brushed the tear from his eye.

Next day when they reached the Hospital,  
The avenues were lined,  
And they learned from the shouting multitude  
That the Armistice was signed.

The Texan shrugged his shoulders,  
And smiled at a wounded "pard"  
And says: "I'm glad they waited  
'Til I got that Uhlan Guard!"  
And that night, the little French mother  
Cuddled little Pierre and the girls to her breast,  
And thanked God for sending the Victory,  
And asked that the Texan be blessed.  
Once more she read them the letter,  
Then tenderly laid it away;  
And after she'd tucked them all in bed,  
She crossed herself to pray.  
She prayed that God would guide their lives,  
So when they passed to the Great Beyond  
Their deeds would live as a monument  
To the memory of Pierre Marchande.

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## THE UNION JACK

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### "THE UNION JACK"

THERE'S a call to arms from across the sea,  
There's just time to say good-bye,  
There's a country calling for her sons,  
It's time to do or die.  
Kiss the tear drops from your mother's cheek,  
Bid your sweetheart fond adieu,  
And when you come back, with the Union Jack,  
They will all be proud of you.

So come, England's sons,  
It's time to shoulder your guns,  
And march away to war.  
Hear the old bugle call,  
Fall in line one and all,  
It is freedom you're fighting for.  
When the war flag is unfurled,  
It's time to prove to the world  
That Britons do not turn back;  
And every mother's son  
Will be the man behind the gun—  
We'll make them all salute the Union Jack.

There's a navy on the briny deep,  
She's the greatest in the world,  
You can tell what country's proud of her,  
By the flag you see unfurled.  
And the men who stand behind the guns,  
Although some may not come back,  
They'll go to their grave like heroes brave,  
For that dear old "Union Jack."



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### CANADA.

OH, Canada, you gave your sons to fight for liberty,  
The flower of the Maple Leaf you sent across the sea:  
And the silent graves in Flanders tell how well you did  
your share,  
For they wrote your name in history by their valor "Over  
There."  
From boundary line to boundary line they heard your  
battle cry,  
And rushed to your protection, they were not afraid to  
die;  
The world owes them a mighty debt that never can be  
paid,  
But let us not forget the spot where every one is laid.  
Let's search the fields of sunny France where all the  
flowers grow,  
And not leave one neglected; so all the world will know,  
"Here lies a son of Canada who gave his life, his all,  
And placed the dear old Maple Leaf on Fame's undying  
wall.  
They made this world worth living in,  
So let their flowery sod  
Become the sacred altar  
Between every man and God."

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## OUR BOYS

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### "OUR BOYS"

Now that the war is over,  
Now that the victory is won;  
Let's all get together and show real thanks  
To the soldiers who shouldered the gun.  
Let's give them the credit that's due them;  
Let's show them we don't forget;  
Let's welcome them home,  
From that hell o'er the foam;  
Let's start in to pay *Our Debt*,  
  
Let's do all we can for their comfort;  
Go the limit for every one.  
For all we can spare is small to compare  
With what those brave soldiers have done.  
Let's find them all jobs to their liking;  
Let's help with a good fellow's vim;  
Let's open our eyes  
And be "regular guys,"  
And prove that we're worthy of them.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### HOW THAT WOMAN COULD LOVE

SHE sat at the table opposite,  
Her eyes were as black as coal,  
The effect of the sparkling Burgundy  
Lay bare her passionate soul.  
And she smiled as only the woman can smile,  
Who has paid the price for desire,  
With a tilt of the head and pouting lips,  
Great guns, how it set me afire!  
And I was the poor weak mortal  
Who had just landed in from the hills,  
With a pent up fire consuming my blood,  
For a woman's embrace and its thrills.  
Her glance brought the red flush to my cheeks,  
As though drunk on a rare old wine,  
I'd have given my soul for a touch of her hand,  
The minute her eyes met mine.  
She was the girl I had longed for,  
Each night by the cabin fire,  
I'd seen that same smile in the embers glow  
That had whetted my heart's desire.  
It had spurred me on in the digging,  
Far more than the greed for gold,  
God, how I wanted that woman,  
I forgot all the hunger and cold,  
And after I'd filled up the buckskin,  
And mushed to the din and the glare,

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## HOW THAT WOMAN COULD LOVE

---

It seemed like my dream was reality,  
As I stared at her sitting there.  
She motioned me up to the curtained box,  
And ordered a bottle of wine,  
And made me forget everything but her,  
As she pressed her lips to mine.  
'Twas just one lingering, passionate kiss  
Till my brain was in a whirl,  
There was no one else in the whole blame world,  
Just me and this dance-hall girl.  
Well,—I didn't wake up for about four days,  
For they slipped something into my booze,  
And when I felt for my nuggets and dust,  
The bartender says, "You lose."  
And "she of the eyes" had vamoosed outside  
With that eight months' "clean-up" of mine,  
Just peddling that smile to some lonely cuss,  
Who had hungered for women and wine.  
And I don't give a damn for the gold dust she took,  
There's more on the hills above,  
But I'll tell the whole world that she was "Some Kid,"  
Oh, boy, how that woman could love.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### THE GIRL

GEE, what mistakes a fellow makes  
As he sails down the stream of life;  
He looks out o'er the foam, and longs for a home,  
And a sweet little loving wife.

He pictures a cute little bungalow  
Near a rainbow of sunshine and joys;  
In fancy he sees, 'neath the Jasmine trees,  
A dear little kiddie's toys.

And the hum of the bees and the breath of the breeze  
Lulls his soul to Paradise;  
But he passes them up for the club and the cup;  
Ah, God! what a sacrifice,

And in all after years, as he smiles through his tears,  
Just fighting it out alone;  
He cares naught for the world, he just longs for the girl,  
For someone to call his own;

And he searches life's stream, for the same golden dream,  
But alas! it's too late to find;  
The rainbow has vanished, life's flowers are gone,  
With the girl that he left behind.

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## THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET

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### THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET

I CALLED to see a pal of mine,  
In his "once happy" little home;  
But instead of his wife and baby there  
I found him all alone.

The house seemed deserted, and try as I would,  
I could not dispel the gloom;  
And I found him musing o'er old keepsakes  
In the little dining room.

The place seemed untidy and disarranged,  
The flowers all needed care;  
And the tell-tale dust on the furniture  
Told a woman was missing there.

Each picture that hung on the tinted wall  
Told a story of by-gone days;  
And I shared his sorrows with all my heart  
As he says, "Jack, she went away;

It is just one week since she left her home,  
Which I've worked hard to build for years";  
And as he looked up at her photograph  
I saw in his eyes, bitter tears.

And I thought it would soothe his aching heart,  
For I knew that he loved her true.  
And I says to him, "Jim, who's the wretch she admires?"  
And he coolly replied, "Tis you."

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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My heart 'most stood still as he spoke those words,  
I could hardly keep back, "You lie."  
But I seemed to feel guilty tho' innocent,  
When I thought of the days gone by.

'Twas true we'd been sweethearts long years ago,  
But honor made me forget;  
And I wondered altho' she'd been true to him  
Could it be that she loved me yet?

Had she guarded her secret with breaking heart  
At the price of a marriage vow;  
And I reasoned, "She never has sinned before me  
So I'll protect her now."

I said, "See here, Jim, we've been pards for years,  
But as true as the God in the skies  
Your wife is not here to defend herself,  
And you'll have to take back those lies.

"She never has wronged you in thought or deed,  
She has been a good, loving wife;  
And you try to rob her of her good name?  
Why, I ought to crush out your life.

"If you thought her guilty of being untrue,  
Why didn't you act like a man  
Just give her the home, and say, 'Now, I'll go,  
I'll forget you as best I can'."

He slowly bowed his head in shame,  
And I noticed his eyelids droop  
As he says, "How can I forget her, pal,  
When I still find her hairs in the soup?"

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## A PICTURE

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### A PICTURE

*A Tribute to the Genius of my Friend, Reouble Sims,  
America's Greatest "Tramp Cartoonist"*

I WAS musing o'er some old "keepsakes"  
Of the happy long ago,  
When I came to the dusty picture  
Of the girl I used to know.  
'Twas a painting on a piece of glass,  
A work of art so rare,  
That I didn't realize its worth  
Till I brushed it off with care.

As the dust fell from the shapely neck,  
My heart almost stood still,  
Those dark eyes pierced me thro' and thro',  
They brought back love's old thrill.  
'Twas the long-lost idol of my heart,  
Crowned in her golden hair;  
Unveiled, the goddess of my soul,  
Stood right before me, there.

And all those bygone romances,  
From dear old lover's lane,  
Brought back the dreamy long ago,  
As they flashed through my troubled brain,



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

And then came back the lover's quarrel,  
Which robbed me of a wife,  
Dethroned the idol of my heart,  
And parted us for life.

Remorse shot forth its bitter pangs,  
Hopes faded in despair,  
But the face at once began to change,  
There was ne'er one half so fair,  
The eyes became so soft and sweet,  
They still held Cupid's dart,  
The lips they seemed to softly say—  
"Take me once more to your heart."

I seized it with a lover's zeal,  
To press it just once more,  
But I gave a shriek, for the photograph  
Fell broken on the floor.  
Broken at my very feet,  
Baptized in bitter tears,  
Yes, broken, as my heart had been  
Thro' all those weary years.

Remained? Yes, lived within my soul,  
And caused the ebb of tears,  
Awoke a chord within my heart,  
Which had slumbered thro' long years.  
And I resolved to find,  
The greatest artist in the land,  
And have him paint that photograph,  
Life like, with master hand.

---

## A PICTURE

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A gleam of heaven in the eyes,  
The hair, a tint of gold,  
I'd place her once more on her throne,  
The queen of all my soul.  
I turned, and there a vagabond  
Was standing in the door,  
He says, "I'll paint that photograph,  
So she'll live for evermore."

And something about those ragged clothes  
Inspired confidence,  
As he took some crayons from a sack,  
All ready to commence,  
I says, "Alas, 'tis all for naught,  
She's lost for evermore,"  
As I pointed to the broken glass  
Which lay there on the floor.

He gathered all the pieces up,  
And gazed once at the eyes,  
Then staggered back against the door,  
Yes, almost paralyzed.  
He gasped, "So man, 'tis you she loved,  
'Twas I who loved her, too,  
That's why I'm now a vagabond,  
She gave me up for you.

I'll paint the Milo Venus,  
Right here before your eyes,  
The face that sent me down to hell  
From the realms of paradise."

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

---

He started in with magic hand,  
'Twas not the slightest strife,  
Each stroke upon the canvas  
Brought the picture back to life.

The spell at once had ended,  
Ah! why was fate so mean,  
Why could I not dream all thro' life,  
That old sweet lover's dream.  
But with that sad awakening,  
Fate's purpose had been gained,  
A sweetheart, most beyond recall,  
In memory now remained.

He could draw the pearly gates ajar  
Till you heard the angels' hymns,  
And then he signed his monogram,  
'Twas the simple name of "Sims,"  
And I heard him lisp "Revenge is sweet,  
I've drawn that face so fine,  
She'll draw the heart strings from his breast,  
As she long ago did mine."

The picture was so near to life,  
You could actually see it breathe,  
And it pulled my leg till I most dropped dead  
When Sims said "Four-fifty, please."

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## MEMORIES

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### MEMORIES

As I sit here and write in this lone den to-night,  
Concentrating my thoughts on a story.  
My memory, in spite of me, turns to the time  
When I wrote not for wealth, but glory.  
When heart throbs inspired each tale that I told,  
When romantic lore filled the bowers;  
When my own boyish glee wrote the wind's poetry,  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

In the long, long ago, e're I knew care or woe,  
I wrote my soul's story for pleasure.  
Far down in my heart's cozy corner it dwells,  
Guarded all thro' this life as a treasure.  
But why should I not give it out to the world,  
Bring to life all those dead happy hours,  
Let my heart guide the pen, live my youth o'er again  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

O'er my desk from the mould hangs a face framed in gold,  
Which has watched me write stories for years.  
Its fond recollection inspires each tale,  
Blends the pathos with laughter and tears.  
'Tis the face of a girl whom I loved dear as life,  
Who now sleeps beneath orange bowers.  
Of my soul she's still queen, and she once reigned supreme  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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An artist was she, painting landscape and sea,  
With Nature's fair gifts she was laden.  
We were happy as doves in each other's love—  
A light-hearted youth and maiden.  
I wrote Nature's songs while she would paint,  
A life full of bliss was ours.  
In sunshine or rain, we were sweethearts the same,  
In that sun-kissed land of flowers.

We both longed for fame to echo our names;  
Our futures we planned—hers and mine.  
Love's old themes I'd write from morn until night,  
I poured out my soul in rhyme.  
And she'd paint each scene, from Mt. Shasta down  
To the dells and shady bowers,  
Each landscape seemed a poetic dream  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

One summer's day, while she painted away,  
I wrote my heart's dearest story;  
I pictured the dell she had painted so well,  
In all of its splendor and glory.  
I told of the fairest flower of my heart,  
Who slept 'neath those shady bowers—  
The last sweet repose of my own darling Rose  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

I little knew that my song would come true—  
That she and I would sever;  
That in the same dell she had painted so well  
My beloved would sleep forever.

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## MEMORIES

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How cruel was fate to take my sweet mate,  
To disturb such bliss as ours.  
But my heart's laid at rest with the one I love best  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

I've tried to forget, but I still love her yet,  
'Tho' I've wandered afar o'er the ocean,  
Her memory remains, o'er my soul she still reigns  
With the love of a sweetheart's devotion.  
Thro' the Alps' scenes sublime and Italy's clime,  
I've dwelt 'neath the earth's fairest bowers.  
But my soul seeks repose by the side of my Rose  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

As I sit here and write in this lone den to-night  
I write not for wealth nor glory.  
But I still love the girl, and I give to the world  
My own heart's dearest story.  
'Twas the romance that comes to each heart only once  
Though its memory haunts life's fleeting hours,  
And we are sweethearts to-day—though they've laid her  
away  
In the sun-kissed land of flowers.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "REFLECTIONS"

TO-NIGHT I've been reflecting  
O'er all my boyhood's days;  
And after all I've only played  
A part in Nature's plays.

Ah! what a play, and such a cast,  
And what a gorgeous stage;  
A plot which only deepens  
As we pass from age to age.

"Fame" is the leading juvenile  
Which "stars" thro all the years;  
The parts of comedy in "life"  
Are those of "lost careers."

The "general utilities" are  
Those without an aim.  
You'll find them on life's program  
Merely "supes" without a name.

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## TO-NIGHT

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### TO-NIGHT

To all of you grown up  
    Girlyies and boys,  
Who've forgotten the thrills  
    Of your childhood joys,

Let's take a trip  
    Down memory's lane,  
Let's go back to yesterday  
    Just once again.

Let's forget all our sorrows,  
    Forget all our cares,  
As of old, let them vanish,  
    In sweet childhood prayers.

Let's follow the rainbow  
    Just for to-night,  
And dig up the treasure  
    With childhood's delight,

Let's drift in our dreams  
    To that enchanted isle,  
Where pirates for ages  
    Have hidden their pile.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Let's find the lost cave  
And the buccaneer's chest  
That is hidden away  
Where the sun sinks to rest.

Let's turn back life's pages  
Where mem'ries are bright,  
Let's all be just kiddies  
Once more for to-night.

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## IN AFTER YEARS

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### IN AFTER YEARS

Let's take a stroll down memory's lane,  
Down the road to yesterday;  
Re-visit all those flowery dells  
Where fancy used to stray.  
Back to the golden long ago,  
To where youth's happy dream  
Baptized the world with happiness  
And started love's sweet theme.

To where the sunbeams loved to play  
And nestle in your hair;  
To where the roses on your cheek  
Bloomed in their beauty rare.  
Remember that old rustic bench  
In dear old lover's lane,  
Remember that old whipperwill  
That sung his sweet refrain,

While you and I would count the stars  
Until the moon grew pale;  
It seemed he smiled at me each time  
I tried to tell love's tale.  
Let's look back through the winter storms  
To that long forgotten "Spring,"  
Let's stroll down to that little shop  
To where I bought the ring.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Let's stand down by the garden gate  
    Beneath the same old tree,  
To where you whispered just three words  
    Which meant the world to me.  
Let's live just for each other  
    And climb life's hill again,  
So when we reach "to-day" we'll not  
    Long for what might have been.

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## SMILE

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### SMILE

COME out of the shadows of life's saddened past,  
Leave all the gloom behind;  
Just brighten the world with a rainbow of smiles,  
And treasures of joy you'll find.  
There's no use to weep over things that are gone,  
Being sad don't recall "Yesterday."  
Though to-morrow brings sorrow, don't borrow a tear,  
Just smile and be glad while you may.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### REAL PHILOSOPHY

THE cheapest thing in all this world is just a little smile;  
A gentle word don't cost a cent, but, my, it's worth the  
while;

A friendly deed to one in need oft times will change  
careers;

The kindness of "one minute's time" will live for many  
years.

If every cent you've ever "spent" brought interest while  
you live,

It couldn't bring you half the joy of one lone dime you  
"give";

So open up that old grouch bag, help others while you  
can,

And every minute of your life you'll feel you've been a  
man.

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## LONGINGS

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### LONGINGS

I've a longing in my pocket for a dollar which I spent  
In my happy boyhood days so far away;  
And I've often had a longing in my stomach for a meal,  
When I couldn't even get a wisp of hay.

And I long to see the sun shine on the aircastles I built  
Which were always one long foot beyond my reach;  
And I've longed so long for longings, I'll be glad when  
they're gone by,  
Yet I'm not the only pebble on the beach.

And I've only now one longing left through these long,  
weary years;  
And although my pocket book's not fat with grease;  
The longing that I've longed for with a longing long  
prolonged  
Is, I long to know where longings all will cease.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### THE MISER

The miser sat by the candlelight on the edge of his treasure chest,

The clink of the gold he had hoarded for years was the music he loved the best;

As each handful of coins through his fingers slipped, he chuckled with fiendish glee:

"I don't care a rap for a soul in the world, and nobody cares for me,

"I never borrow, I never lend,

I accept no favours from foe or friend,

And when my life comes to an end,

I leave no one to grieve o'er me."

As the light threw his shadow upon the wall, he turned with a shriek of fear;

He covered the gold with his palsied hands, for fear of *its* drawing near.

But to his surprise every move he made the *shadow* made with him,

And he found he wasn't alone in the world, as he thought he'd always been.

And every gesture and every word,

And every shake of his grizzly beard,

And every time the miser stirred,

The *shadow* moved with him.

---

## THE MISER

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The miser glared at the shadowy form that seemed so  
bent and old,

And quietly took a canvas bag and started to hide the gold.  
When he turned his eyes, to his surprise, that fiend from  
Shadowland,

Was mocking him in every move with a bag in his  
shadowy hand.

And every turn and every look,

And every handful the miser took

Was shared by this mysterious crook,

For the *shadow* divided with him.

He dropped the bag with its golden coins, and they clinked  
as they rolled on the floor,

And he crawled on his knees with a miser's greed to  
gather them up once more ;

But they slipped through his fingers and rolled away, no  
matter how hard he tried,

And the shadowy fiend mocked every move, as it picked  
them up by his side.

And every handful the *shadow* took,

The miser gave a begrudging look,

And he fancied he heard the *shadow* crook

Say, "Half of that gold is *mine*."

The miser watched that shadowy form till in his distorted  
brain,

It took him back o'er his ill-spent life that he never could  
live again.

It recalled all the pleasures and happiness he had sacri-  
ficed for gold—

How he'd got out of touch with his fellow men, and he  
heard the *shadow* scold:



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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“The time has arrived for you to die,  
You’ve lost everything that your gold could buy,  
You can take nothing with you, e’en though you  
try,  
That you didn’t bring into the world.”

Next morning they found the miser’s form by the side of  
his treasure chest;

The golden coins in the canvas bag were fondly pressed  
to his breast.

He left no marks on the sands of life, no good deeds to  
humankind;

He left no friends, he left no foes, when he left the world  
behind.

The shadow had passed away at dawn,

The flickering candlelight was gone,

The miser had passed to the Great Beyond,

But his treasure was left behind.

L’envoi—

And the only treasures in life worth while

Are the kindly deeds and the golden smiles;

And you’ll take *two* out of the world, you’ll find

For every *one* that you leave behind.

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## THE COCKTAIL

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### THE COCKTAIL

LIFE's flowing bowl, if you'll figure it out,  
Is a cocktail after all;  
It's only a drink in the goblet of time  
Which is sipped at the last roll call;  
It's only a mixture of sorrows and joys;  
It is flavored with passions and fears,  
And like sparkling wine, it ripens with time  
In the casks of the fleeting years.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### THE CREED OF THE CRAB

THESE optimists you read about  
Are only in your mind,  
They like to fourflush 'bout the things  
They did in Auld Lang Syne.  
But every time you lend a dime  
To someone who's your friend,  
You're only playing sucker  
For he'll sting you in the end.

That's why I'm a pessimist,  
That's why I'm a crab;  
I'm going to freeze to every  
Measly nickel I can grab.  
They can call me "tight-wad" if they like;  
It's coin that talks—not gab;  
The dollar is my only friend,  
And that's why I'm a crab.

If you spend your money while you're young,  
They'll say that you're a jay;  
If you save it, you're a miser;  
If you're congenial, you're too gay;  
If you're polite, they'll call you "sissy";  
If you're honest, you're not wise;  
If you ask for money that you've lent  
You're one of those "mean guys."

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## THE CREED OF THE CRAB

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That's why I'm a pessimist,  
That's why I'm a crab;  
I'm goin to be the meanest guy;  
I'll steal all I can grab.  
I'll be so doggoned little  
By the time I come to die,  
That the devil cannot find me  
'Till he's used his coal supply.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### WAITING

THIS life is filled with waiting  
From the cradle to the grave.  
We wait and long for something day by day ;  
In Childhood days we're waiting,  
For the time when we'll grow up ;  
When life's work takes the place of childhood's play,  
In school days we are waiting  
For the graduating time ;  
In business days we're waiting to retire ;  
And when we have retired we're found waiting for the  
time,  
When old age leaves but embers of life's fire ;  
And when old age at last has dawned and left its feeble-  
ness,  
There's nothing else in life for which we crave ;  
Yet still you'll find us waiting for life's journey to be o'er,  
Just waiting, only waiting, for the grave.

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## THE FAILURE

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### THE FAILURE

WHEN first I held you in my arms,  
And gazed into your eyes,  
The lovelight I saw shining there  
Made life a paradise;  
And when we "banked" on happiness  
The future held in store,  
The "bank book" read just "You and I";  
We asked for nothing more.

The "interest" on our "golden dreams,"  
We counted thousand fold;  
It seemed our "dividend" of love  
Would pave life's path with gold;  
But as we drifted down the years  
Where "fortune's storms" assailed,  
We tried to "draw" upon our love;  
Alas, the bank had "failed."

And tho' the parting of the ways  
Caused us to drift apart,  
There's just one fond regret to fill  
Your place within my heart.  
Though Memory's "vault" can't "close its doors,"  
"Love's bank" has failed it seems;  
Life's only "interest" now is drawn  
Upon our "golden dreams."

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### THE LAW OF EQUALIZATION

WHEN this world was just in the making,  
Old Father Time came to a pause;  
In a moment of deepest reflection,  
He thought out a code for his laws.  
He figured all things must be equal  
But exacting in every one,  
And his first Law of Equalization  
Is the greatest law under the sun.

It's as sure as the grim reaper's sentence,  
It acts as the world's balance wheel;  
It divides all the treasures of Nature,  
And tells you, "Thou shalt not steal."  
It applies to your life's every action,  
And so you easily define  
He listed things under two headings,  
And stamped "*right*" and "*wrong*" on your mind.

But he played square himself in the making,  
For he gave you the best right along;  
For he installed a conscience to tell you  
Which action was "*right*" or was "*wrong*."  
Though he made you a free moral agent,  
To select any path that you like,  
Just follow impulse against conscience,  
And see how this law can strike.

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## THE LAW OF EQUALIZATION

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When a man or a woman imagine  
They can cheat and still keep home sublime,  
That old law brings "all of their chickens  
Right back home to roost" every time.  
If you plant wheat, you'll never raise barley;  
To get mutton, you have to have sheep;  
For that stern Law of Equalization  
Says: "Whatever you sow, you shall reap."

Your stomach was made for life's fuel,  
But, pollute it with "Juice from the Bowl,"  
And you'll find out "the next morning after"  
That Nature exacts every toll.  
Just forget a girl's somebody's sister,  
It matters not where you may be,  
Your action will act like a boomerang,  
And land you on your own family tree.

A crook often cleans up a fortune;  
But follow his trail to the end,  
And you'll find he would give every nickel  
Just to be called "*A man*" by some friend.  
The respect for himself that he loses,  
Spells "failure" for him in life's book,  
And that mysterious, silent collector,  
Collects for each cent that he took.

For that old Law of Equalization,  
That has been handed down through the years,  
Makes illegal joys pay with sorrows,  
And illegal smiles cost you tears;  
And if you would try to escape it,  
There's one easy thing you can do,  
And that is: "Do unto others,  
As you'd have them do unto you."



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### YOU'RE ANOTHER!

SHOW me the man who tells you,  
He never lied to his wife,  
And I'll show you the biggest liar  
That ever was brought to life.

If you ever meet a woman  
Who has always spoken the truth,  
She's been dead both ways from the middle  
Since the days of her early youth.

And there's only one deduction,  
Though it's pretty tough to face,—  
But lying's the greatest accomplishment  
That is known to the human race.

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## WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

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### "WHEN THINGS GO WRONG"

GEE! but this is a punk old world!

When things are going wrong,  
There's not one note of melody  
Left in life's sweetest song.

The sunshine seems to lose its warmth;  
The moon don't shine at all;  
It seems that every thing worth while  
Has gone beyond recall.

The woods have lost their splendour,  
And the flowers cease to bloom;  
The song birds never warble,  
And all Nature's out of tune;

The goddess that you've idolized  
Has turned into an elf;  
You see a change in everything,  
That is—except "yourself."

And that is where the trouble lies;  
Just open wide your eyes,  
You'll see your "brain storm" vanish  
And leave rainbows in the skies.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Bad luck may have you down and out ;  
But take another view,  
And you'll find a dozen close at hand,  
A lot worse off than you,

Just fight the wrongs within yourself ;  
And when you've won the game,  
You'll find the birds, the sunshine,  
And the whole blamed world the same.

### LIFE

LIFE is just like a day in June,  
A beautiful dawn and a promising noon ;  
It ripens to sunset's golden glow  
Then fades away as the sun's rays go ;  
Each spans the gulf of a fleeing year,  
A little laughter, a little tear ;  
It's only a pause by the magic pond  
Till the grave marks the way to the "great beyond."

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## AFTER ALL

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### AFTER ALL

How many times from boyhood up  
    We plan our future lives;  
We picture life but happiness  
    When we have chosen wives;  
We lay success' corner stones  
    And shape our great careers,  
But the sweetest dregs from the dreamer's cup  
    Oft bring the bitterest tears.  
How oft in life you meet a tramp,  
    A poor old drunken sot;  
You can't see one redeeming trait  
    That's worthy of your thought.  
But just like you and me  
    He dreamed the same dreams long ago;  
But now they're locked in memory's vault—  
    The world will never know.  
And like that poor old tramp some day  
    We may go down the line,  
Be numbered with the "lost careers"  
    Of "once upon a time,"  
For the dreamer with the loftiest dreams  
    Oft gets Fate's "hardest fall."  
Too late we say "there's no fool  
    Like an old fool, after all."

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "ALONE"

WHEN you've given the best that is in you,  
And spent the best years of your life  
To buy ease and comfort for others,  
To save them from worry and strife.

When you've fought all your battles in silence,  
And you see victory looming in sight,  
Then those for whom you've been fighting  
Have forgotten you're making the fight.

They've forgotten the days that are by-gones  
They've almost passed out of your life;  
They forget the new channels now open  
Were built by your worry and strife.

And the old spark of love you once kindled,  
Like the ember, is faded and gone;  
Though you now see success in the offing,  
You find out too late, you're alone.

Alone with just fond recollections,  
You live back o'er each yester year,  
Where poverty kept you together,  
And love made all things sweet and dear.

And you wonder if life's worth the struggle,  
Though success shows you each corner stone.  
If you win, you have lost life's whole battle  
When you find out too late you're *Alone*.

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## THE WORKINGMAN

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### THE WORKINGMAN

THOUGH his home is no mansion,  
His clothes are not fine,  
Though he works hard from morning till night.  
Though his dinner pail's empty,  
He whistles the same,  
And you wonder what makes his heart light.

You notice a smile as he's toiling away  
Though his station in life is not high,  
And you wonder why *he* is content with his lot  
While *his boss* seems to grumble and sigh.

'Tis the love for his dear ones that strengthens his arm,  
That makes him content with his fate;  
And he smiles as he thinks of a sweet laughing face  
That will meet him to-night at the gate.

Perhaps it's a little tot, boy or a girl,  
Perhaps it's his mother, or wife;  
No matter, that one fond embrace at the gate  
Is pay for his worry and strife.

The battle for millions may make men of wealth  
Neglect all that makes life worth while;  
But poverty adds to the workingman's love,  
And that's why he works with a smile.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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His clothes may be dirty, ragged and torn,  
His face may be sunburnt and brown;  
But he knows he's as dear to the ones at the gate  
As though he were wearing a crown.

The wealthy may laugh at his struggle through life;  
But when there are deeds to be done,  
You'll find it's the working man, right in the front,  
That's the first one to shoulder the gun.

And when he has finished his toil on this earth,  
When he answers his "last roll call,"  
May the Page write his name on the tablet of fame:  
"The workingman, king of them all."

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## SNOBOCRACY

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### SNOBOCRACY

IN the quaint little village of "Happiness,"  
In a street that was named "Content,"  
A sign was placed on a house one day,  
With just two words: "*For Rent.*"

From the distant city of "Thoughtlessness"  
That lies in the land of "Sob,"  
Came two of its most famous citizens,  
Mr. and Mrs. "Snob."

They saw this house with its sign "*For Rent,*"  
With its flowers all over the walls,  
With the sun streaming in through the windows,  
With its bright and cheery halls.

Says "Snob": "We'll rent this cottage,  
And show the town some 'class.'  
We'll change the place to suit ourselves  
And attract all those who pass."

So they put blinds on the windows  
To shut the sunlight out;  
They cut the flowers from the walls,  
And changed the place about.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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Then they gave a grand reception,  
To the folk of "Happiness,"  
That is—to those who could afford  
To wear fine evening dress.

The things they did that evening,  
Were new to all the town,  
Most of the conversation  
Centered on some lady's gown.

They played a game called "Gossip,"  
Which was clever as could be,  
It was written by old "Camouflage"  
To please "Miss Jealousy."

But Miss "Jealousy" took second prize,  
She found she couldn't beat,  
A friend of "Mr. Hatred's"  
By the name of "Miss Conceit."

Before the party ended,  
As parties always do,  
"Miss Happiness" and "Mr. Frank"  
Bade all the guests adieu.

The "Snobs" were quite insulted,  
And agreed with all the rest,  
That "Happiness" and "Mr. Frank"  
Could never be their guest.

But the party was a grand success,  
The "Snobs" had come to stay,  
And by their elegance and style  
Established social sway.

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## SNBOCRACY

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In fact their influence was felt,  
In every walk of life,  
Their spell was cast on single folk  
As well as man and wife.

A change came over all the town,  
It didn't seem the same,  
And friends who used to stop and speak  
Forgot each other's name.

The sunshine wasn't bright and warm,  
The flowers ceased to bloom,  
The street they used to call "Content"  
Was nicknamed, "Rue de Gloom."

The "Snobs" got all the citizens,  
(Though some against their will)  
To change the town from "Happiness"  
And call it "Sorrowville."

One day a singer came to town  
Named "Human Charity,"  
And advertised a concert,  
With all the tickets free.

And every body in the place  
Turned out to hear the songs;  
'Twas just what they had needed,  
She electrified the throngs.

She sang the simple ballads  
That contained a "human" theme,  
And not the "highbrow" classics  
That make things "not what they seem";

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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And when she sang her encore,  
About "the girl who smiled,"  
The audience stood up and cheered,  
The town went simply wild.

And when they left the theatre,  
They all smiled at the door,  
For the sun was shining brighter  
Than it ever had before.

But "Mr. Snob and Mrs. Snob"  
Turned up their haughty nose,  
Says "Mrs. Snob" to "Mr. Snob":  
"Of all the low brow shows!

"Those songs were quite impossible,  
And dear, I must confess,  
We're out of place here, so let's move  
Right back to 'Thoughtlessness.'"

Meantime this little house was bought  
By Messrs. "Just and Right."  
They told the "Snobs" they have to move,  
And move that very night.

And the town changed back to "Happiness,"  
For "Mr. and Mrs. Snob"  
Moved back to the city of "Thoughtlessness"  
That lies in the land of "Sob."

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## TO THE POETS

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### TO THE POETS

OF bards who soar to classics,  
Almost four of every five  
Get out of touch with Nature,  
And lose all for which they strive;  
And as Nature is the Masterpiece  
Of everything sublime,  
You can't improve on Nature,  
So you're only wasting time.  
Come down to earth, for wond'rous themes  
Are close at every hand;  
You can let majestic eloquence,  
Paint thoughts divine and grand.  
But listen closely to the Muse,  
And grasp the magic tone,  
Then you'll find the keynote "Human"  
And you'll leave discords alone.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "THE LITTLE BOOK STORE"

WHAT a miniature world is the little book store  
With its geography pictured in volumes of lore,  
With every known country upon this old sphere  
And thousands in "Fiction Land" almost as dear,  
With its poets, philosophers, statesmen and sage  
Who connected the past with to-day's flitting age,  
What a vault for the treasures of those gone before  
Is that same unpretentious, *Little Book Store*.

It's the one only place that our memories can give  
Where the writers of all time, together, still live  
With all of the characters of each age and clime  
Who left their imprint on the records of time,  
With armies of heroes and villains galore  
And heroines fit for the gods to adore;  
And I know that the spirits are hovering o'er  
(In one great communion) the *Little Book Store*.

With every known subject minutely defined  
It's the orchard of fruits from the world's greatest minds,  
Life's garden of thoughts that can never decay  
Where the flowers of speech live for ever and aye  
In the chain of the ages, the connecting link,  
A monument to all who took time to think;  
To the fountains of knowledge it's the world's open door  
Long, long may you prosper, you *Little Book Store*.

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## THE LITTLE BOOK STORE

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### L'Envoi

And many's the man who passed the door  
Who never looked in to the *Little Book Store*  
Or realized that the man inside  
Was doing a work of God's own pride,  
And the bookseller, not realising himself,  
That the wonderful thoughts that came from his shelf  
To a million minds some good unfurled  
And made this a grander, better world.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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### "MOTHER"

"MOTHER" is the grandest word  
That's known to human tongue;  
It tells the sweetest story  
That the poet ever sung.  
The histories do not impart  
From whence its magic came,  
'Tis beyond the gift of eloquence  
To define that simple name.  
But deep within our "heart of hearts"  
We know just what it means,  
'Twas God's own greatest title  
When he crowned her "Queen of Queens."

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## DEAR OLD DAD

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### DEAR OLD DAD

IN childhood's golden hours,  
And in boyhood's happy days,  
Thro' all your joys and sorrows  
There's a friend who's true always;  
No matter if the world frowns  
On the downfalls you have had,  
There's one who'll take you by the hand,  
That's dear old Dad.

When poverty knocks at your door,  
Old dad will never shirk;  
He's not too proud for overalls,  
Just so it's honest work.  
His dinner pail may not be full,  
But still his heart is glad;  
Just so he knows his wayward boy  
Loves dear old Dad.

Your friends may all desert you,  
Whom you thought were tried and true;  
Perhaps you've lost a sweetheart  
Who was all this world to you.  
If your dearest pal has turned you down,  
Just when your heart is sad,  
Remember you have still one friend  
In dear old Dad.



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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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When all the air castles you've built  
Have crumbled to decay;  
When all fond hopes you've cherished  
Have forever passed away.  
When all the good you've ever done  
Seems to have turned to bad;  
There's one who overlooks your faults,  
That's dear old Dad.

He sees in you the same sweet boy  
Who prattled on his knee;  
He always thinks you innocent  
As once you used to be.  
He watched you grow from childhood up;  
Your triumphs make him glad;  
In sun or rain there's one the same,  
That's dear old Dad.

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## THE OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER

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### THE OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER

THE old-fashioned mother who used to insist  
On a chaperone for her girl,  
Who had to know what time she returned  
From every social whirl,  
Who said: "My boy, develop your brain,  
Stay home and study to-night,"  
Is almost a relic of bygone days,  
She seems to have dropped from sight.

But she left her mark, God Bless Her!  
And her deeds that linger behind,  
Will blossom again in golden thoughts,  
Develop the future mind.  
We're living now at a thoughtless age,  
And the greed for pleasure and gold,  
Has made us classify everything  
As, "traditions decrepit and old."

But just watch a girl of the "butterfly life"  
Who finally marries some chap,  
Who is placed in life's category  
As a well dressed up to date "yap."  
The height of their ambition  
Is usually "doing the Town,"  
Or showing their "circle" that they are real sports,  
After they've settled down.

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## THE TRAIL OF A SOURDOUGH

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They usually divorce in a hurry,  
Or else fight it out for life;  
She thinks he's a mighty poor husband;  
He knows she's a hell of a wife.  
That is one time they're sane in opinion;  
They've sized up each other just right,  
But they point out so many examples,  
Their faults soon pass out of sight.

As far as leaving their mark in the world,  
They're a couple of "figure heads";  
And the nearest they come to children  
Is a pair of white twin beds.  
You can all draw your own conclusions,  
But you wouldn't see all of this strife  
If we had more old-fashioned mothers  
To show them their places in Life.

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## A LITTLE GIRL AND A LITTLE BOY

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### "A LITTLE GIRL AND A LITTLE BOY"

IN all this world the greatest joy  
Is a romp with a little girl and boy;  
The boy, though just a tiny mite,  
He grasps your heart and holds it tight.  
And by that wondrous, mystic love,  
You know he came from Heaven above,  
The girl—God bless her little heart—  
She's been my pal from the very start.  
I've watched her grow from babyhood,  
The embodiment of all that's good.  
Though I'm not versed in Religion's school  
I've hung on tight to the Golden Rule,  
In hopes that others in this world  
Will be good to my little boy and girl;  
And though I'm rough from worldly care,  
Each night I offer up a prayer  
To Him who watches over all  
And marks the tiny sparrow's fall.  
To watch o'er those so dear to me  
And guide them in their destiny.  
For this old world would hold no joy  
Without that little girl and boy.

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## THE TRAIL OF A

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### TO MY BOY

*Right after all of the Christmas joys  
Of 1917,  
Old Santa Claus had stopped to pause  
In a fairy dell unseen.  
But he saw an angel flying by  
With a dolly that he had forgot,  
Encircling the clouds with its precious gift  
To alight on a welcome spot.  
Reindeer looked up at this wondrous sight,  
But Santa hung his head—  
To forget the greatest gift of the year  
Was unpardonable, he said.*

*Visions of earth to the angel came  
As it fondled its treasure with care;  
Into the heart of a Royal home  
It left a Royal heir.  
Concealing its flight in the Christmas night  
It flew back to heaven above,  
To tell Santa he was forgiven at last  
By the joy of a baby's love.  
On the Record Book the angel  
Where they register every  
Robert Victor Elliott,  
The Greatest Boy on Earth.*









